



Thursday, September 28, 2017

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Residents told to be vigilant after break-ins and car thefts

TOWN BEING HIT BY A CRIMEWAVE

Report by Jamie Brassington

A CRIMEWAVE is hitting Halesowen with cars being stolen off driveways and homes being burgled, warn community leaders

Police confirmed that the town is suffering a 'spike in crime' and ward councillors have urged people to report anything suspicious.

Thieves are breaking into homes and stealing cars at night, said Halesowen North's Councillor Hilary Bills.

She said: "The biggest thing we are having is cars are being stolen off driveways at night when people are asleep."

"There has also been house burglaries. This is happening right across Halesowen, particularly in the Hurst Green area."

"On social media, people have been saying 'anyone seen my car?'"

"We have definitely got a huge spike in crime at the moment. At the last community forum, Halesowen police sergeant Debra Rowbotham told the meeting 'that there has been a rise in crime.'

Councillor Bills warned residents and businesses to be on the lookout for anyone acting suspiciously.

"A lot of crime is by opportunists and I think people need to be doubly aware to stay safe and secure. If anyone sees anything suspicious, they should call 101."

Forum

Issues about crime and policing will be raised on Monday at the next community forum, which is attended by Halesowen councillors and West Midlands Police. The Halesowen North and Halesowen South Community Forum will take place at Olive Hill Primary School on Springfield Road from 6.30pm.

Fellow Halesowen North ward councillor Stuart Henley said: "Crime is on the rise everywhere. We could do with more police but that is a political issue." Councillor Henley praised police for raiding a cannabis factory in Halesowen earlier this month.

RESTORING HISTORIC GARDEN TO ITS OLD GLORY



Volunteers saved around £12,000 by clearing old classrooms themselves as part of the Leasowes Park walled garden project at Halesowen

A FRIENDS group of a Halesowen beauty spot is appealing for help to raise £70,000 and complete the refurbishment of a Grade I historic park.

Plans have been in the pipeline since 2014 to bring Leasowes Park back to its best after it fell into disrepair and was targeted by vandals.

The park, which features a walled garden, was designed by poet William Shenstone between 1743 and 1763 and is considered one

of England's most influential 18th century landscapes.

Friends of Leasowes are working to return the park to its former glory.

Mick Freer, who leads the group, said: "If we can raise the £70,000, we could turn the park to the way it was."

"The park has been neglected for so many years. We want to have it opened and restored for the people of Halesowen."

"The walled garden is something for the

people of Halesowen to be proud of. It is part of the history of Halesowen."

Money has been donated to the group as part of its ongoing project and Mr Freer estimated around half of the project has been completed.

The outer garden is now complete and attention has turned to redeveloping the inner part. An orchard will also be developed and toilets will be built. Call group chairman Marianne Diller on 0121 4227585.

EDUCATION

College is awarded £95,000 sport grant

A £95,000 Sport England grant to encourage young people to be more active has been secured by Halesowen College.

College bosses have ambitious plans to use the money to encourage more people to stay active. These include covered outdoor table tennis tables plus a new active coordinator who will schedule a range of sport, and social and fitness activities throughout the year.

Elaine Cammies, from Halesowen College, said: "This money will really help us to enhance what we already have to help young people improve their fitness as well as their mental health."

EVENT

Velo cycle ride will be back next year

VELO Birmingham will be back next year, say organisers who have heralded the weekend's 100-mile cycle race as an 'exceptional' event.

They have revealed that more than £2 million was raised for charities by the 15,000 cyclists who took part on Sunday. But road closures due to the event angered some people and tacks were left on the route.

● Cycles and sabotage – page 4

POLICE

Suspicious powder sent to MP's office

A POLICE investigation has been launched after a box containing a suspicious white powder was sent to an MP's constituency office in Wordsley.

Mike Wood says staff at his office on High Street were panic stricken after one of them opened a package on Tuesday morning and a powder spilled out. The Dudley South Conservative MP, who was not at his office at the time, said the box appears to have been sent from India and contained 'anti-Islamic statements'.

INSIDE

NEON NIGHT RUN SUCCESS



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Surgeon is shortlisted for top awards



Dalvi Humzah

A HOSPITAL cosmetic surgeon has been shortlisted for two prestigious industry awards.

Dalvi Humzah, who works at West Midlands Hospital in Halesowen, is in the running for the prizes at the annual Aesthetics Awards 2017 which will be presented at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel in London at the start of December.

He has been announced as a contender in two of the most sought-after categories at the awards which are organised by the Aesthetics Journal and

recognise the achievements of practitioners and surgeons working in the cosmetic industry. They include the Enhance Insurance Award for Best Independent Training Provider of the Year for the Aesthetic Clinic Training courses he delivers.

He has also been shortlisted for the PHI Clinic Award for Professional Initiative of the Year for his collaborative work developing a Level 7 qualification with MATA.

He is a finalist with the multidisciplinary group for developing a protocol to

deal with the rare complication of blindness associated with filler injections.

MATA is a leading medical and aesthetics academy for healthcare professionals in the UK led by cosmetic and plastic surgeons.

Mr Humzah is an expert in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery at the private hospital. He also provides non-surgical treatments such as laser therapy and treatments to reduce wrinkles.

Mr Humzah said: "It is a real honour to be a finalist in both categories."

Thug jailed for attack on terrified ex-partner

A FRIGHTENED woman sat at home with the lights off because she was so intimidated by her ex-partner, a court was told.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Richard Hughes, of Woodnorton Road, Rowley Regis, would not leave the woman alone after their year-long relationship ended.

The 28-year-old bombarded her with phone calls and text messages while repeatedly driving past her house, said Miss Samantha Powis, prosecuting.

He also arranged for people to bang on her door, shout abuse and park outside for long periods. The tormented victim, 24, told police: "I was so scared I would sit in my house with no lights on."

Slapped

A month after they split he accused her of a burglary at his mother's home and demanded that they meet on a car park. He slapped her, pulled her hair and took her to an address where he threatened to keep punching her until she admitted her 'guilt,' and produced a knife.

Mr Simon Burch, defending, said: "He has struggled with the idea he had to let the relationship go."

Hughes pleaded guilty to assault, putting a person in fear of violence and witness intimidation. He was jailed for three-and-a-half years and banned from any further contact with the woman.

Station revamp is driving ahead

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to re-develop Dudley Bus Station this week took a major step forward.

Dudley Council's development boss Councillor Ian Kettle said he was satisfied with the scheme after seeing the plans in detail.

Concerns about safety had been raised by cabinet colleague Councillor David Stanley, raising the possibility the council could block the scheme or ask for significant changes.

However, the way now looks to be clear for the project, brought by Transport for West Midlands.

Under the plans, buses will reverse in and out of bays at the revamped station, which had led to concerns pedestrian safety could be put at risk.

But Councillor Kettle insisted changes to the layout would mean passengers would not walk out in front of buses.

The long-awaited revamp of the town's bus station is expected to go ahead as part of the Midland Metro extension into the town - part of major changes over the next decade announced by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street last week.

Duke of Kent opens £4m warehouse



HRH The Duke of Kent with managing director Guy Perry, at A Perry & Co (Hinges) Ltd, Cradley Heath

A £4 million warehouse and manufacturing facility which will pave the way for 20 new jobs has officially been opened by the Duke of Kent in Cradley Heath.

Company directors at A Perry & Co gave him a tour of the 100,000sq ft site in Cradley Heath, where 15 jobs were created and 20 more could follow.

The Duke, a cousin of the Queen, marked the official opening by unveiling a plaque with Guy Perry, the group managing director.

The company bought the site on Doulton Road before refurbishing it and bringing in new equipment and machinery.

The firm, which is famous for its hinges and other ironmongery, was founded in 1925 and is now run by the fourth generation of the family.

The firm's products have been used in Buckingham Palace, Wembley Stadium and for the HS2 rail scheme. It has also supplied studios that created Star Wars, Harry Potter and Doctor Who.

Mr Perry said: "We are honoured the Duke of Kent has opened our new distribution, warehouse and manufacturing facilities, marking 92 years of continued growth and expansion for our company."

"While other companies within the industry are retreating or standing still, Perry is continuing to offer full-time employment and apprenticeships to local people."

"We have several further major products and new range launches next year."

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Speed gun to be used in traffic campaign

A SPEED gun has been bought by road safety campaigners in a bid to crack down on motorists flouting the speed limit in Halesowen.

The campaigners will be out on the streets of the town aiming to catch speeding motorists with the electronic device.

The speed gun records licence plates and speeds just like the police version.

Campaigners have welcomed the move in an effort to promote road safety. They will be working with police as part of the initiative.

The Shell Corner Partnership purchased the device using funding from the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson and the Halesowen Community Forum.

Halesowen North ward councillor Hilary Bills said: "Halesowen police sergeant Debra Rowbotham is working with us to step up the community speed watch group across Halesowen north and south."

"We will be out soon with the speed on gun on streets."

"We have bought it using £2,000 from the police and crime commissioner and the forum."

She added: "I think it is safe to say many roads in Halesowen are recognised as speeding hotspots."

The move has been welcomed by Councillor Stuart Henley, fellow ward councillor and campaigner, who said he hoped it would reduce traffic accidents.

Plan for 100 new homes near wood

PLANS for a major housing development near Haden Hill Park have been revealed.

Developer A and J Mucklow Group has lodged plans to put around 100 homes on a green site at Haden Cross, Cradley Heath, where Haden Cross House once stood. The site covers a large area stretching back from Halesowen Road, near Haden Hill Park.

An application for outline permission has been lodged with Sandwell Council. A mix of properties is expected with a planning statement revealing some would likely be three storeys high. Some of the woodland on the land would be retained as part of the proposal.

A design statement, said: "The area of the site which is closest to the A459, where the former Haden Cross House once stood, has been left unmanaged and is now overgrown. The proposed development includes the creation of a new residential development, areas of open space and retains the woodland area to the east of the site."

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Cornbow centre's proposed new look

A SHOPPING centre frontage is to be replaced as part of it poses a danger to pedestrians.

Planning experts said canopies outside the Cornbow centre in Halesowen were 'failing' and presented a 'health and safety risk' to shoppers.

The shopping centre is being revamped as part of a £1.2 million upgrade and the changes to improve safety will be made as part of the scheme.

Documents submitted by planning agents IDP to support the project, which has been approved by council

bosses, revealed there were safety concerns over parts of the structure.

They said: "This design and access statement has been prepared in support of the planning application for the removal of the existing canopies from Hagley Street facade of the Cornbow shopping centre, which are currently a health and safety risk."

"The proposed site is the front elevation of the Cornbow shopping centre, and specifically the canopy which is above the public highway along this facade."

"The canopy is dated, and the nu-

merous columns and totems act as a barrier to shoppers, but more importantly the canopy is in a state of disrepair, held up by a number of temporary struts."

"The proposed replacement of this canopy is therefore not just an aesthetic issue but an issue of health and safety to pedestrians."

Eve O'Connor, Cornbow centre manager, said: "The canopies were becoming outdated and the plan is to reinstate new ones with further work beginning on our revamp in the new year."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solar style festive lights are on offer

PLANS are in the pipeline to return solar powered Christmas lights to Halesowen town centre this festive season.

A local councillor is inviting residents and businesses to see if they would like to purchase lights for £90, which would then be installed in Long Lane.

They are set to be switched on November 14 as part of a community event which residents and businesses will be invited to attend. Councillor Karen Shakespeare said: "If anyone would be interested in taking part, them contact one of your local Halesowen North ward councillors."

Music and tower tour at church

A CHURCH will host a day of song in a bid to raise funds.

Halesowen's St John's Church will hold the event on Saturday.

It will include performances from choirs and tours up the church tower.

Tombola stalls and a grand prize draw will also be on offer at the event from 10am until 12.30pm.

The day will culminate in a 'sing for your supper' concert led by Kingswinford Choral Society, costing £10.

All activities apart from the concert - which starts at 7.30pm - are free. For tickets, call 0121 501 2443.

Coffee and cakes served for charity

COFFEE and cake will be served up across the West Midlands as part of an annual cancer fundraiser.

Staff from 26 funeral homes will open their doors on or around today (Friday) to support Macmillan Cancer Support's world's biggest coffee morning, which collected £29.5 million in 2016.

A total of 78 events and activities are being held in the Black Country, see the website centralengland.coop for further details about what's happening in your area.

Man, 91, hit by car has died in hospital

THE elderly man who was struck by a car in Stourbridge on Friday afternoon has died in hospital.

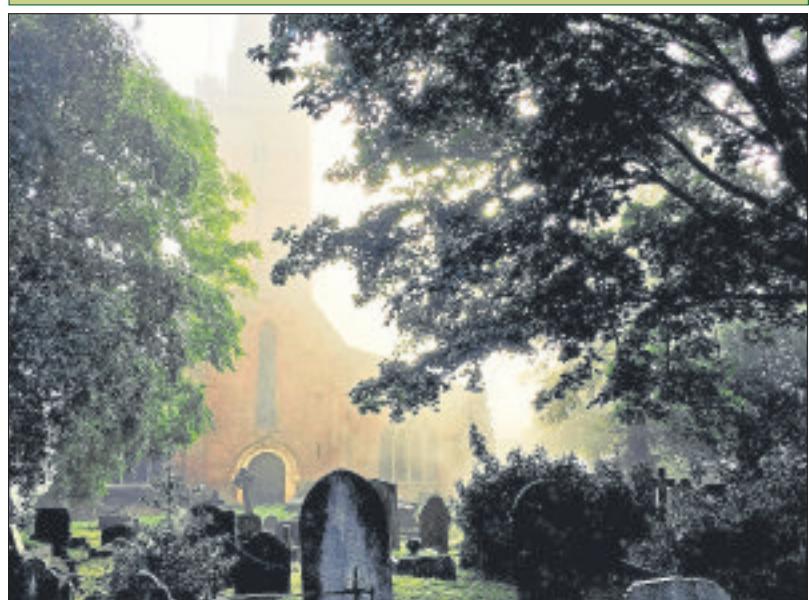
Michael Dudok, aged 91, was hit by a car in New Road, at around 12.25pm. Officers said a driver was assisting them with their enquiries.

Anyone with information about the incident can contact the police on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

● Gornal crash probe – page 8

Traders call for more free parking in town

Misty morning image of church



Autumn is in the air at St John the Baptist Church in this atmospheric Halesowen scene

THIS looks like a scene straight out of a fantasy film, as the sun breaks through low lying mist on an old church.

But it was in fact taken by photographer Thomas Ray at a Hale-

sown church while on his way to work early in the morning.

Tom, aged 21 from Halesowen, took the picture of St John the Baptist Church on his mobile phone.

for three years at college, said: "I took the photograph using my iPhone and I wanted to capture the scene because I love it. It looks like an enchanted forest."

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Have a say over council tax help

PEOPLE have been urged to have their say on changes to Dudley Council's council tax reduction scheme, before the October 15 deadline.

A consultation is taking place on plans which could see young people leaving the care system get extra help with paying their council tax.

The consultation asks if people are in favour of introducing a new 'vulnerable category' for care leavers aged 18 to 24.

People can take part in the consultation online at the dudley.gov.uk website while paper copies are available at Dudley Council Plus and borough libraries.

School's careers work recognised

A SCHOOL in Dudley has been recognised for its work preparing students for their future careers.

Bishop Milner Catholic College in Dudley has been awarded the Quality in Careers Standard. It is presented to schools and education providers who can demonstrate the importance they place on careers and how they support students to make decisions about life after school.

The college offers a range of activities to introduce students to the world of work including an academic enrichment programme for sixth-formers.

Pirate opera show

STOURBRIDGE Choir and Orchestra is performing a concert version of the popular Gilbert and Sullivan operetta The Pirates of Penzance on October 14.

It is taking place in Haybridge High School, in Brake Lane, Hagley, from 6.30pm. Visit www.stourcos.org.uk

Cycling and sabotage

FLAG-WAVING crowds, disgruntled businesses, fed up motorists and saboteurs.

The Birmingham Velo brought plenty of drama to the Black Country and its rural fringes on Sunday as 15,000 cyclists took on the 100-mile route.

The race started in Birmingham city centre at 6.30am, then went through Sandwell, South Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Wyre Forest, returning to the city centre via Halesowen.

Many road closures were in place, forcing some businesses to shut for the day and residents to leave their cats at home.

Nails and tacks were left on the route, including in Bobbington and Swindon, at the start of the day as some angry people tried to sabotage the event.

One tack caused a puncture to the back tyre of marshal David Coxhead's motorbike. His job was to assist vehicles having to use the route in an emergency. It included escorting a carer to a care home.

He said: "I thought they managed to clear them all, but one obviously got my tyre."

Swindon Parish Council chairman Richard Painter said: "Unfortunately there have been tacks put on the road around this area, they were left there in the morning."

Disruption

"Work was done to remove them, but I know some cyclists suffered punctures."

Among those hit by the closures was Lloyd Bigden who drove up from Ipswich for a stunt driving day at Halfpenny Green Airport near Bobbington. But the 24-year-old, and his friend Liam Burns, from Lichfield, could not get to the airport in time for the 11am start.

The disruption to the road network had forced many pubs to open later than usual, including the popular Red Lion in Bobbington, and Halfpenny Green Vineyard did not open until 2pm. People spoke of their frustration at not being able to get to events, including a wedding at Blakelands Country House in Bobbington, where bride-to-be Emma Johnson was given a police escort to arrive in good time to tie the knot with her groom Christopher.

There were also cheers as hundreds of people lined the roads waving flags and holding signs of support for the charity fundraising cyclists.



Cyclists make their way through Halesowen at Mucklow Hill in the Birmingham Velo Pic: Christopher Ashford



Cyclist Imran Khan's tyre was burst by a tack



Bride-to-be Emma Johnson was caught in traffic

Body scans are on move to the Guest

A PROJECT has been announced to expand a £3.5 million imaging facility at Dudley Guest Hospital for patients needing body scans.

The outpatients centre at the Tipton Road hospital is being extended to handle an extra 20,000 scans a year.

Health bosses say the project will help to reduce waiting times for patients, but warned some existing services could be affected while the extension work takes place.

Work has already begun on the project and the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, hope it will be completed by November 1.

Two new scanners will be brought in to produce the MRI and CT scans.

All patients in Dudley needing the scans will be sent to the Guest Hospital, freeing up services at Russells Hall Hospital and Corbett Outpatient Centre, where they previously went.

Chief

Dr Alec Wolinski, chief of clinical support at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Providing scanning facilities closer to patients' homes will not only be more convenient but will also free up scanners at Russells Hall Hospital for inpatients and those needing emergency imaging."

MRI and CT scans are used to scan body parts and can detect internal injuries or cancer.

The development will also create an extra 22 parking spaces, adding to the project's aim to make it easier for patients to access hospital services.

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Pedestrians had to leap out of way of speeding car

A BANNED motorist with nine previous convictions for driving while disqualified led police on a chase that ended when he ploughed into another car.

A court heard how pedestrians were put in danger by Lane Smith, of Rowley Regis, some being forced to dive for cover due to his driving.

Other motorists had to take evasive action during the incident on an August afternoon in the Black Country. Smith sped off towards Quarry Bank after failing to stop for an unmarked police car while travelling in Cradley Heath at around 4pm on August 18.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the 27-year-old raced down residential streets at up to 70mph in a 30mph limit zone. Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said he went through a red light, forced other motorists to swerve and mounted the footpath forcing pedestrians to jump out of his way.

A woman trying to cross the road had to dive out of the way before Smith swerved to avoid a male pedestrian during the three minute chase.

He lost control and cannoned into the side of another car before running off but was quickly detained.

Panicked

Mr Jamie Scott, defending, said Smith panicked because he knew he would end up in prison if caught for motoring offences again.

The lawyer continued: "Motor vehicles are his Achilles' heel. Until now he has been unable to resist getting behind the wheel of vehicles when disqualified from driving."

Smith, from Uplands Avenue, had been repairing the car on a driveway when asked to move it and had got behind the wheel despite his driving ban.

He admitted dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and having no insurance. He was jailed for 15 months and banned from driving for four years on release from custody by Recorder Robert Spencer-Bernard, who told him: "You have an appalling record."

Councillor Patrick Harley, council leader, said: "This has been a very worthwhile exercise in asking people how they want to influence decision-making at Dudley Council."

No change on elections

PEOPLE have voted in favour of retaining the current elections system in Dudley borough.

More than 1,500 people completed the consultation on the future of the ballot which looked at potential changes.

Elections run every year with a year off every fourth year, but people were asked if they wanted to change to one election every four years when all 72 seats will be contested. But more than 80 per cent of people who responded to the survey opted to keep the current system with 24 seats up for grabs each election year.

Councillor Patrick Harley, council leader, said: "This has been a very worthwhile exercise in asking people how they want to influence decision-making at Dudley Council."

Pensions safe, former steel workers told

TRUSTEES of the giant £15bn steel industry pension fund have moved to reassure pensioners they have nothing to fear from the merger of Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp.

The Black Country's industrial heritage means it is home to thousands of pensioners who worked in the steel industry, including former foundries in Bilston, Halesowen and at Round Oak in Brierley Hill.

They are among 130,000 members nationwide of the British Steel Pension Fund (BSPS), which owns a major stake in Tata Steel UK.

The UK and European arms of Tata Steel will become part of Europe's second biggest steel business, following the start of a merger with German giant Thyssenkrupp.

The deal has been able to go ahead after Tata was able to separate itself from the huge pension fund, with estimated liabilities of £15 billion.

The pension deal, called an RAA or regulated apportionment arrangement, was given final approval this month. It will see Tata Steel pay £550 million into the old pension fund, which goes into the UK pensions lifeboat, the Pension Protection Fund.

Fund trustees are being given a one third stake in Tata Steel's UK business. A new pension has been set up for Tata Steel's 8,500 existing UK workers. Steel worker unions agreed.

Gardeners show off best produce at show

MORE than 41 competitors took part in the annual Colley Gate Gardening Club show.

The show near Halesowen included the West Midlands' Heaviest Onion competition, which was sponsored by Ashwoods and was won by the gardening club's chairman Mick Poultnay. The best exhibit was won by Geoff Bradley for his chrysanthemums.

Aled has audience walking on air



Aled Jones joined the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir at Dudley Town Hall

CLASSICAL singer, radio and television presenter Aled Jones wowed the audience at Dudley Town Hall when he appeared alongside a male voice choir from the Black Country.

The talented Welshman, who first found fame as a boy soprano more than 30 years ago, performed with the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir at Dudley Town Hall

Jones, 40, rose to prominence for his version of 'Walking in the Air', the song from hit Christmas animated film The Snowman.

Charities

He performed with the male voice choir in Dudley on Saturday as part of a night which raised money for the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

Good Morning Britain presenter and former Chronicle reporter Philippa Tomson compered the evening.

Cash raised will go to Councillor Dave Tyler's three chosen charities – Dudley Mind, the YMCA and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

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You can bet Rooney baby won't be a Laura

IT seems people will bet on anything these days. Apparently the bookies are now taking bets on what Wayne and Coleen Rooney's imminent baby will be called. Given that their eldest son is called Kai, which sounds like a budget hatchback from South Korea, and that his little brother is called Klay, your guess is as good as mine. But I will venture that Laura isn't among the frontrunners.

□ □ □

IMAGINE, say, a veteran car club wanted to close 100 miles of road, cutting off vast swathes of the West Midlands for several hours. Or maybe a bunch of steam traction-engine fans. What do you imagine the reaction would be? Exactly.

Indeed, I recall that back in 2005 there was a big hoo-ha about a group of Second World War veterans, who were refused permission to commemorate VE Day by marching a few yards along Stourbridge's Enville. Can't have that, can we? Health and safety and all that.

So how did they manage to shut 100 miles of West Midlands roads off for Sunday's Birmingham Velo "cycling festival"?

Now if I really wanted to take part in a 100-mile bike ride, I think I would head for the coast, not Brum, but each to their own.

Actually, the Birmingham Velo appeared to have very little to do with Birmingham. Instead the organisers commanded long stretches of Sandwell, Dudley, South Staffordshire and north Worcestershire. Apart from starting and finishing in Brum, the second city appeared to be largely absent from the route.

Look, nobody wants to be killjoys, and if the 19th century transport buffs want a large event to support their hobby, good for them. They should also be congratulated for raising a lot of money for charity.

But closing 100 miles of roads for hours on end, and cutting the region in two, does seem excessive for such a niche activity. And while lip-service may have been paid to "consultation" in the way that local councils do, I bet not many of you remember being asked for your opinions before it was given the go-ahead.

Maybe next time somebody wants to organise a huge event to promote cycling in Birmingham, it might, y'know, actually consider holding it in Birmingham. Then again, they seem to be struggling with emptying the dustbins over there at the moment.

□ □ □

TWO-thirds of students who enrol on Wrexham University's marketing degree course drop out within the first year.

Seems rather strange to me. After all, it looks really good in the publicity material.

'Happiness index' on what influences our wellbeing



Mel Brooks, aged 91, would like to be remembered as 'taller, if possible'



Jean-Claude Juncker – some of us were warning about the destiny of the EU



Dennis Skinner MP – is applauded for sticking to his principles

Forget the money, I just want to sleep

A NEW "happiness index" claims the two things which really influence our health and wellbeing – far in excess of mere money – are sex and sleep. Although not, presumably, at the same time.

A READER draws my attention to an advert for a house for sale. According to the estate agent's blurb, it features "four bedrooms, master dressing area, bathroom and guest WC, no chain."

ON a sentimental trip to childhood haunts, I noticed the old meat-pie factory had vanished. I recall that someone in school knew somebody who worked in the pie factory whose thumb was chopped off in the mincing machine – and they never found it. And the strange thing was that, when you repeated this story, you always found that someone else knew someone who worked in another pie factory and he lost a thumb and it was never found. In the entire history of pie factories, has there ever been one which didn't have its own severed-thumb yarn?

IN an interview Hollywood legend Mel Brooks, 91, was asked how he'd like to be remembered. "Taller, if possible," he replied.

BROOKS laments the fact that a movie such as his 1974 Western spoof, Blazing Saddles, liberally littered with Jewish jokes and the N-word, could not be made today. He says political correctness is the death of comedy. Actually, it's worse than that. Blazing Saddles was not just a comedy. It was a sharp satire on racism attitudes in small-town America and it shone a light in dark places. PC is the enemy not only of comedy but of satire, comment, discussion and progress.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AT London's Hyde Park Corner, a punch-up broke out between Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists, or TERFs, and transgender campaigners including a group called SistersUncut. One of those hurt was a "gender critical feminist" who is a trans-woman and a humanist-funeralee celebrant. Doesn't life seem awfully quiet out here in the provinces?

I RECENTLY reported the suggestion that owners of draughty houses might be forced to bring them up to modern insulation standards before being allowed to sell them. A reader says this is an issue which affects some of the grandest houses in the land. As he puts it: "Even Chequers has draughts."

CHEQUERS. Draughts. Yes it took a while.

A READER complains glumly about being nicked for speeding in Wales. For the first time in more than 40 years of driving, covering more than a million miles, he has penalty points on his licence. He is philosophical about it but I sympathise. Wales is a happy hunting ground for speed traps hidden in known "hotspots." Some of these are found on the approaches to remote villages where the 30mph limit may extend far into open country. Locals are aware of them but it's easy for outsiders leaving the village to believe the limit no longer applies. A few 30mph repeater signs in these areas would prevent a lot of speeding offences. But that's not the idea

is it, boyos? They call it enforcing the law. I call it a tax on visitors.

HINDSIGHT is easy. But some of us were warning about the destiny of the EU long before the latest speech by Jean-Claude Juncker describing his hellish vision of a single-state EU with one president, centralised control of economies, the euro for all member nations and a fully-fledged EU defence union. There is nothing new in this. The choice in last year's referendum was never between Brexit and the EU status quo, because the EU is not standing still. It is moving toward something we want no part of. As I wrote a few days before the referendum: "What keeps me awake at night is the superpower it will become. Brussels has been careful not to use the F-word lately but the old dream of a federal EU, with existing nations reduced to canton-sized units such as Mercia and Catalonia, is still alive and well in the corridors of power. And so, as some British generals and security experts have pointed out, is the EU's old dream of its own armed forces." True then, truer now.

DENNIS Skinner votes against his Labour party on Europe and is applauded for sticking to his principles. Jacob Rees Mogg speaks out against abortion and is applauded for sticking to his principles. Have you noticed how much easier it is to applaud someone's principles when they are exactly the same as your own?

INCIDENTALLY, if you're thinking of emailing me about the German motorist who asked you for directions to Luger-Barooga (Loughborough), it is ancient.

TALKING POINT



No thought control, just leave the kids alone

'BOYS will be boys', or so the Ordinary Boys song goes. And girls will be girls.

And why should they – or their parents – be made to feel bad because they have slipped into 'gender stereotypes'?

There are people who would have us worry about this. So much so that not only are there action groups to prevent our little ones being led by misguided parents into this gender trap but now leading retailers have stepped in.

At the forefront of this 'gender neutral' drive is High Street giant John Lewis. The store is no longer restricting children by giving them labels – clothes labels that is. From now on their clothes will not be divided along gender lines and labels will read 'girls and boys' or 'boys and girls'.

It is also introducing a new neutral collection for boys and girls. A spokeswoman said they did not want to 'reinforce gender stereotypes'.

Have they not noticed that a lot of our teenagers are already wearing gender neutral clothes, baggy t-shirts and sports wear with trainers a prerequisite!

Meanwhile a school in east Sussex has changed its uniform policy so all new Year 7 students must wear trousers. The headmaster said pupils had been questioning why boys had different uniform to girls so they decided to have the same.

What message does that send to the young girls? Why should girls have to look like boys? I notice they didn't decide that everyone should wear skirts.

Action group, Let Clothes be Clothes, has been set up to persuade UK retailers to rethink how they market children's clothing.

As a new, impressionable and nervous mother I absorbed such rhetoric on 'good parenting' like a sponge.

Included in my son's sizeable toy box was a toy cleaning trolley while my daughter was taken to football and dressed in cool denim.

Naturally she also wore some of my son's hand-me downs, like generations before me. Maybe we have always been gender neutral we just didn't shout about it.

So does my now teenage son ever pick up the Hoover? Not likely! He likes action films, enjoys sports and mostly wears black. While my daughter, despite my best efforts, threw herself into pink, fluffy and Disney for many years.

So do I feel like I have failed? I most certainly do not. I am proud of the individuals my children have grown up to be.

In the words of Pink Floyd: 'We don't need no thought control . . . Leave them kids alone!'

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Quite right to feel grumpy over Velo

DAVID Viner, in The Chronicle, encouraged us to go out and cheer on the Velo Birmingham riders and suggested that the event would bring many positive benefits to the region and no-one should be grumpy about it.

This shows the classic arrogance of those who believe that, because they claim they are pursuing their chosen pastime in aid of charity, it justifies spoiling the enjoyment of a vastly larger number of people whose own plans for the day are disrupted.

Of course Birmingham Council supported this event because they suffered minimal road closures and gained lots of revenue from the entrants but it was left to the rest of us in the Black Coun-

Cyclists can dress to be better seen

AFTER an accident in which a woman lost her life, the argument about cars and cyclists has reared its head again. It seems as if the advice being given out is for motorists to take care when opening their car doors.

But what about the cyclists?

Each week, when we are making our way to do our shopping, we pass a group of middle aged to elderly cyclists at Summerhill, near Kingswinford. Most are wearing black. Why wear black cycling bottoms or shorts? Black clothing with reflective stripes is, in my opinion, useless. The first view of a cyclist to following vehicles is the part of the body on the saddle - black?

And do not forget helmets. The head hits the ground hard when you fall off a bike.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Moving museum and gallery is a mistake

WHATEVER planet is Dudley Council on?

They want to transform Dudley town to the tune of £41 million, but why bother when they ripped part of the heart out of this very same town when they closed the museum and art gallery?

By moving this attraction to the new archives in Tipton Road they deprived local people of a very much-loved facility.

This seemed another ploy to move the 'town centre' to another area, just as they seem to claim Merry Hill belongs to Brierley Hill. I really don't get it.

MRS L SHELDON
Dudley

Thanks for support at pub event

COULD we just say a very big thank you to everyone who attended our fun day at The Crown, Oldswinford, held on August Bank Holiday Sunday in aid of the Mary Stevens Hospice.

This is our thirteenth year of holding the event and we broke all records, raising nearly £30,000 for this worthy charity.

In total, your contributions have raised around £150,000 since we started the fundraising and for that we can't thank you enough.

We would also like to thank you to all of the neighbours of the pub for their patience and understanding on what can be quite a noisy occasion.

All we do is for a very worthy cause and we really appreciate your support.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Arnie says 'I'll be back' for cake better than Hollywood



AB Cakes owner Paz Heer, and cakemaker Nune Paruryan



The audience at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole during the evening



'Get to the chopper' – Arnie says, ready for the event

IT takes a lot to impress Hollywood legend Arnold Schwarzenegger – but cakemaker extraordinaire Paz Heer did just that.

The cakemaker from Wolverhampton-based AB Cakes produced a Predator-based cake for the A-list star's visit to Birmingham.

And Schwarzenegger, the star of the Predator movie, was so taken with the impressive cake that he told Mr Heer he had 'outdone Hollywood'.

Mr Heer, aged 36, from Essington

Report by Fiona Smith

has previously designed cakes for stars including Floyd Mayweather, Anthony Joshua and Eddie Hall.

The movie Predator was chosen as the theme for Arnie's visit to Birmingham, and also Leeds, to mark it being released 30 years ago.

Mr Heer said: "As soon as I got the confirmation I was doing the cake I watched it again for research – I knew I had to come up with something different."

He spent five days slaving over the

cake after redesigning it 'five or six' times. He said he had to turn away other business in order to get it finished on time.

The design was a mix of sponge tiers, icing and also a Predator mask. It included UV blood, a mistmaker and lasers for a stunning effect.

Mr Heer added: "I must have watched it 10 times in my life and I've grown up with [Schwarzenegger]. He's just an inspiration and meeting him was so cool."

Seventy-year-old Schwarzenegger appeared before 1,000 people at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole last

week for an Experience With event. In his hour-long chat, hosted by presenter Charlie Webster, the Austrian-born actor told of his rags to riches story from his beginnings as a bodybuilding champion to Hollywood actor and of course, his time as Governor of California.

Tickets for the black tie dinner event were on sale for between £145 and £375. However, there were some small number of tickets available at £499 (or £749 for two people) for those who wanted a handshake and a photograph with the actor. And 20 people could pay £999 for a meet-and-greet

chat with the star as well as the photograph at the end of the night.

He told the audience how filming Predator took its toll on him with the 100F heat in the Mexican jungle and how he eventually ended up in hospital. At the end of the night Arnie was given a machete to cut the Predator cake.

Birmingham was one of just two UK dates, the other being in Leeds. It is the second time Arnie has been in Birmingham having appeared at the ICC in January last year. Regarding a third visit, he did promise British fans 'I'll be back'.

Fatal crash sparks probe by council

A THREE-VEHICLE crash which killed a woman in Dudley has sparked an investigation by council bosses over road safety.

Vikki Jones, aged 30, died at the scene of the three-car smash in Wood Road, Lower Gornal, on Friday night. An 11-year-old girl, believed to be her daughter, was taken to hospital with arm injuries.

The fatal accident, which took place close to Ms Jones' home, has sparked anger from residents who claim their calls for traffic calming measures have been ignored. Dudley Council says it is now investigating.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our thoughts are with the family of the woman who lost her life."

"The circumstances of the accident are currently being investigated by police, however, as with all serious traffic incidents we will be carrying out our own investigation."

Detective Sergeant Paul Hughes said: "We are trying to establish exactly what happened, and are appealing to anyone who witnessed the collision, and hasn't yet spoken to us, to contact us."

A 21-year-old man arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving was released on police bail.

Design award for jewellery graduate

A GRADUATE from Birmingham City University's school of jewellery has won a design award.

Sophie Lomax, aged 27, won Professional Jeweller's young jewellery designer of the year after she impressed judges with her designs, including a Valentine's range for 77 Diamonds. She graduated in 2012.

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"Nothing was too much trouble" **Doreen Coley - Hayley Green**

COMPETITION

It's the World – but not as we know it

THE world's biggest digital stars are being brought together under one roof for the first time in a new live show.

The multi-million pound production makes its debut at Birmingham's Genting Arena. HelloWorld is to launch on Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29 with tickets on sale via helloworldlive.com

Chronicle readers have the chance to win free tickets as 15 pairs are up for grabs for the Sunday show.

From the creatives behind the MTV VMAs, this world-first event brings together the biggest digital stars on the planet – headliners include Zoella, PointlessBlog, Joe Sugg, Caspar Lee, Rose & Rosie, Jim Chapman, Louise Pentland, Tyler Oakley, KSI, Marcus Butler, Ollie White, Jake Mitchell, Janavlogs, Katie Pix, LookingforLewys,

Lucy and Lydia, Jack Maynard, Mark Ferris, Niki and Sammy, The Shades, Josh Pieters, New Hope Club and more will be ready to share a mind-blowing live experience.

Where the online world collides with the real world, guests arrive into the living, breathing space of HelloWorld and take a stroll down Main Street where the sun is rising over the town, the day begins and the town comes alive. The biggest stars in Social Media are getting up close and personal with their fans.

There are live music performances, games, bake-offs, parades, a fashion show, a Giant Arcade Machine, signings and talks, even weather forecasts! Yes, HelloWorld even has its own weather!

Suddenly the sun goes down,

HelloWorld!

HOW TO ENTER
To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets just answer the following.

Name one of the digital stars
Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and email address to HelloWorld Competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, October 5. Usual rules apply.
* Tickets for Sunday only

there's a thunderstorm and the town is bathed in moonlight as the evening entertainment begins on the main stage, a 30ft high projection mapped Emoji House! The HelloWorld DJ provides the soundtrack as guests cheer along to games and live interviews with the stars. The night closes with a giant house party.

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Big smiles as the fundraisers get ready for Neon Night Run in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice at Himley

Here we glow – Neon Night is lights fantastic

SCORES of neon-clad fund-raisers completed a fun run in Himley Park for charity.

Hundreds of people took on the 5km Neon Night Run on Friday to raise cash for Mary Stevens Hospice.

Hospice chiefs are hoping to repeat or better the success of last year's run, which raised more than £25,000.

A statement said: "The Neon Night Run was beyond anything we can put into words, and we'll be doing all the big thank yous and letting you know how much you wonderful people raised next week as soon as we can."

Charlotte Schofield, Head of Fund-raising and Lottery at Mary Stevens Hospice, added: "Neon is just one of those infectious events that puts a smile on your face just thinking about it."

"Watching so many people come together, dressed in the wackiest and most wonderful outfits they can find, dancing and having fun for hours on end with their friends and loved ones is such a special thing to be a part of."

Difference

"Then, when it's all over and everyone has gone home, the legacy they leave through the money they've raised will make the most incredible difference to the families relying on our care."

"That care is only possible because of the amazing people who come to the events like Neon, so we'd like to say thank you to everyone who made this event so wonderful once again."

Immediately following the event, revellers took to social media to praise the hospice for the evening and share their stories.

Laura Fellows, Neon Night Run participant, said on Facebook: "Thank you for an amazing night, you are all truly wonderful people. You looked after my Dad with the most unbelievable care and compassion at what was a terrible time. Can't thank you all enough."

Lucy Mahoney, Neon Night Run participant, added: "Had a fantastic time tonight helping to raise money for a very worthy cause, here's to next year's Neon Night Run!"

To find out more about other upcoming events for the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/events.

The Neon Night Run raised more than £25,000 in its debut year last year, and the final total for 2017 will be announced once all sponsorship monies have been collected and counted.

Hundreds turned out for the colourful night run at Himley held in aid of the Mary Stevens Hospice



Peaky Blinders returns to TV

THE fourth series of Birmingham-set 1920s gangster drama Peaky Blinders returns to BBC TV next month.

Filming began for the new season in March when star Cillian Murphy, who plays Tommy Shelby, was spotted on set at the Black Country Living Museum.

Joining him is Charlotte Riley, who plays aristocratic widow May Carleton and the production will also include the return of Tom Hardy, who is Charlotte Riley's real life husband.

Also in the new series will be top actors Adrien Brody and Game of Thrones star Aiden Gillen, who played 'Littlefinger' in the fantasy blockbuster.

Sandwell's Safer 6 campaign returns



Firefighter Alan Malpass with Rhys Thomas, 5, from Cradley

A CRIME campaign launched with an action-packed open day for all the family at a fire station in the Black Country.

Sandwell's autumn Safer 6 campaign is all about partner organisations targeting their efforts and providing extra reassurance during the darker nights, fireworks and bonfire season – a time when crime and anti-social behaviour can rise.

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Council has brought back 29 of its redundant staff

ONE in 12 council workers who were made redundant over a two-year period at a Black Country authority were later re-hired.

A total of 29 members of staff were brought back to either work part-time or full-time at Dudley Council, despite having received redundancy pay-offs.

One worker received a pay-off of more than £60,000 only then to be brought back on a causal

basis. Two others received redundancy packages of more than £30,000 and nine workers got more than £20,000.

Six of the workers returned to authority within just three months of leaving.

Of the 29 who returned to the authority after losing their jobs, 17 were given permanent roles while 12 came back on a casual basis.

A report showed one worker who received a salary of £38,000 was given £26,500 in redundancy money before their returning with a sal-

ary of £27,100. Another who was paid £31,000 received £23,600 redundancy package before returning three months later on a wage of £13,200.

Dudley Council made 326 staff redundant between 2014 and 2016 as it was hit hard by budget cuts.

The authority said it was the role that was made redundant rather than the employee, and some were offered the chance to return when circumstances changed.

Car vandals go on the rampage

DOZENS of cars were vandalised during a 12-hour crime spree in a Black Country borough which left a 'trail of destruction'.

Vandals smashed up 32 vehicles with a baseball bat whilst driving through streets in the Tipton and Brandall areas of Sandwell.

Police chiefs have condemned the 'terrible incident' and are appealing for help to trace the suspects who are still at large.

It comes as reports came from the community about similar vandalism that has taken place in recent weeks – with one car being torched. The incident took place between 7pm on September 18 and 7am the following day.

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Hundreds at funeral of stabbing victim Ryan, 24

HUNDREDS of mourners gathered for the funeral of popular local footballer Ryan Passey, who was stabbed to death in a Stourbridge night-club.

The 24-year-old's funeral was held at St James Church in Walsall on Friday.

Family, friends and former team-mates from Wrens Nest and Stourbridge Athletics football clubs carried his coffin into the church. The casket was draped with a Stourbridge Athletic shirt, while other football shirts lined the entrance to the church.

The hour-long service was led by Rev Nick Kalenik, who read out tributes from friends and family.

Songs

Pictures from Ryan's life were displayed on a big screen inside the church as songs were played that had been selected by his best friend Jordan Poole, his father Mark Poole, Ryan's mother and father Gill Taylor and Ade Passey, and step-father Phil Taylor.

Lukas Graham's song Funeral opened the service as people filled the church. The acoustic version of Charlie Puth's See You Again was played to pictures of Ryan and Jordan's nights out and holidays abroad.

Mr Poole, who had known Ryan since they were four, tearfully spoke about their bond. He said: "I always thought the day I would be standing and speaking about Ryan would be at his wedding. We rarely spent a day apart. He played football how he lived his life with passion, loyalty and care for the people around him. In the future my children will know everything about him. You were my brother, my best friend, my hero, Ryan."



The coffin draped with a football shirt

Ryan Passey died on a night out



St James Church was filled with mourners for the funeral of Ryan Passey

Sam Smith's Lay Me Down was played as family pictures of Ryan growing up were shown, while a video of Ryan and Jordan singing 'every little thing gonna be all right' from Three Little Birds by Bob Marley was played at the end of the service.

Family members went on to Stourbridge Crematorium, while others headed to the Raven pub in Brierley Hill to raise a glass in his memory.

Ryan, from Quarry Bank, died after being stabbed at Chicago's nightclub in the town centre.

Kobe Murray, aged 19, of The Broadway, Dudley, has pleaded not guilty to murder and is due to stand trial in January.

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Brum's big wheel and rink get cold shoulder

TWO major festive tourist attractions will not be heading to Birmingham this year, council chiefs have confirmed.

The big wheel and ice rink, which are normally set up outside Birmingham Rep in Centenary Square, both of which have been cancelled. This is a result of the ongoing £10 million revamp of the square, means no space for the Christmas events.

Bosses have been unable to find an alternative site for the attractions in the city centre.

A Birmingham City Council spokesman said: "Because of the major refurbishment of Centenary Square, both officers and the operator have been unable to find an alternative site large enough to accommodate the ice rink and big wheel."

The wheel offered spectacular views over the city.

Work on the Centenary Square project is not due to be finished until next summer. It will have a pool with water jets installed and will also be able to host major events with 43 'lighting columns' illuminating the area at night.

The German Market – which attracts thousands of visitors to the city centre every year – will go ahead as usual in Victoria Square and down New Street from November 16 to Christmas Eve.

Double bill tour will be Wonder-ful Stuff!



Two Brum gigs for Jonn Penney, left, and Miles Hunt

IT'S been 27 years since two of Stourbridge's finest bands – The Wonder Stuff and Ned's Atomic Dustbin – shared a stage, but they will be appearing together in a double-headline tour in 2018.

The tour celebrating the days when Stourbridge was mentioned in the same breath as Manchester and Liverpool for its thriving music scene will include two consecutive nights at Birmingham's O2 Academy on April 14 and 15.

The two bands grew up alongside one another and their first ever live show together was on The Wonder Stuff's Disco King tour at the long-gone Hummingbird venue in Birmingham.

To celebrate this reunion both bands sold a limited number of tickets at 1990 prices of just £7.

With a career spanning more than three decades, The Wonder Stuff have sold millions of albums worldwide with eight studio releases to date. They had hit singles Size Of A Cow and, with comedian Vic Reeves, a cover of Dizzy. The band, fronted by Miles Hunt, continue to record and tour.

Formed 30 years ago, Ned's Atomic Dustbin quickly gained a huge fan base after those initial shows with The Wonder Stuff and shot straight to number one in the indie singles chart in July 1990 with Kill Your Television. The Neds, fronted by Jonn Penney, saw their first Sony single Happy storm into the Top 20 and their debut album, God Fodder, went top five as well as achieving success in the USA with the band also gaining a cult following in Japan.

Joining them will be DJ Graham Crabb from Pop Will Eat Itself, another band from the Stourbridge scene. Tickets £30 will be available from tomorrow (Friday) at 9am via ticketmaster.

Football tournament scores more cash

THE organisers of a historic amateur football competition have handed over £10,000 to Beacon Centre for the Blind.

The JW Hunt Cup has run every season since 1926 and has raised more than £330,000 for the charity over the years.

It features clubs from across the West Midlands and each year the final is held at Molineux. Alex Hamil MBE, cup president, said: "We are delighted to be able to present this cheque for £10,000 to the Beacon Centre. Beacon is a charity very close to our hearts."

"We are very proud to have been supporting the same, incredibly worthwhile charity for 91 years."

Gary Moulder, head of finance at Beacon, added: "We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from the JW Hunt Cup. Without their support we would not be able to provide the services and care that local people living with sight loss have come to depend on."

Cyclist deaths and injuries fall by fifth after police blitz

THE number of cyclists killed or seriously injured on West Midlands roads has dropped by a fifth over the last year.

This follows an initiative by police to protect cyclists from dangerous overtaking.

Operation Close Pass was the idea of West Midlands Police who investigated low-cost ways of preventing col-

lisions caused by motorists driving too close to cyclists.

They were the first force in the country to use undercover officers in plain clothes to look out for dangerous activity in this area.

Helmet

Dashcam and helmet footage from the public is also passed to officers to help convict the worst offenders.

Since the operation was launched last year, there has been a 20 per cent reduction in cyclists killed or seriously injured on the roads.

More than 175 drivers were pulled over and given a lesson in safe overtaking and 350 prosecutions were made using video evidence from the public. Also, police cyclists radio details of 'close-pass' drivers for colleagues to pull over.

Soul star Jaki leads diversity celebration

SOUL star Jaki Graham is to lead a weekend celebration of diversity. The singer will headline the Wolverhampton Black History Month launch event tomorrow (Friday), before appearing as one of the star performers at Wolves Pride the following day.

Wolves Pride is the largest event of its kind in the city's history. It will take place from noon to 9pm on Wulfruna Street, the Civic Centre ceremonial car park, St Peter's car park and the pedestrian area outside the University's Ambika P Paul building.

The sell-out Black History Month launch event at the Arena Theatre will feature a hot African-Caribbean buffet before a series of talks and performances. It is the start of a four-week celebration of black history.

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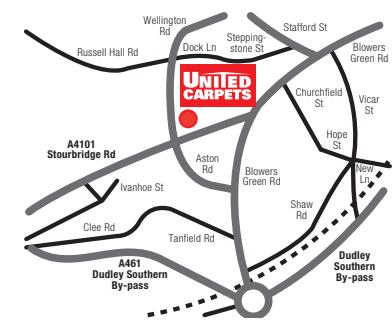
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Stay independent with help to get your home adapted

Commercial feature

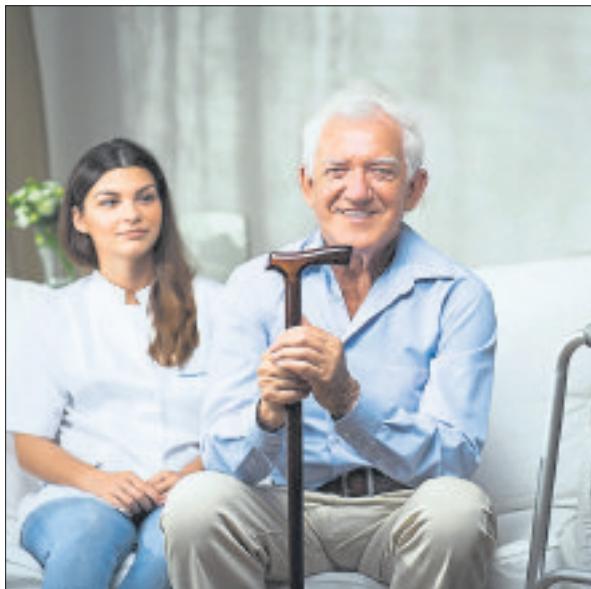
Dudley Council is offering help to Dudley borough residents who need to adapt their homes to better meet their needs.

Anyone who is struggling with daily life in their home can ask for help. If a member of the household of any age is having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, even getting into the home, help is on offer to adapt the property to better meet these needs.

Dudley Home Improvement Service, part of Dudley Council, offers the adaptations package. Grants are available to pay for adaptations, along with an adaptations package of advice and practical support. This consists of an expert recommendation, support to design and build the adaptation from technical officers and council approved builders. All work is overseen by the council, so there is no hassle and no stress to people.

Home adaptations for independence are available to people who own their own homes or are private rental tenants. Council tenants can already request adaptations to their homes through the council. The aim is to help people stay independent in their homes. Typical adaptations include handrails, stair rails, ramps, level access showers, stair lifts, through-the-floor lifts, even home extensions to provide extra sleeping or bathing facilities.

An initial assessment by an occupational therapist will take place and this will establish the type of adaptation needed to suit a



Anyone who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service person's needs and to help them stay independent and safe in their home.

The service offers adaptations to people of any age. Full grant funding is always provided for adaptations needed for children under 18.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director of place said: "Anyone who is finding it difficult to manage in their home, or has a member of their

household who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service. Lots of support is on offer, along with grant funding to pay for home adaptations for many people. It's all about keeping people safe and independent in their homes and making life more liveable."

Contact Dudley Home Improvement Service on 0300 555 0055.

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Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

Make your home work for you

Home adaptations for independence

Struggling in your home? Are you or a member of the family having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, or even getting into your home?

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Dudley Council offers grants to pay for adaptations*, uses reputable, approved tradespeople and can arrange all works for you.

*Dependant on criteria



- Level access showers
- Door widening
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- Ramps
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Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

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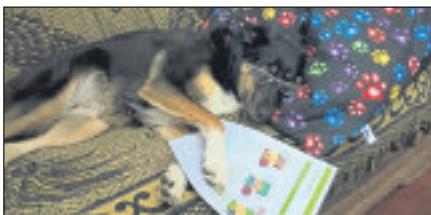
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Worn out – Richard Ecrement's Milo and Max



Gary Fletcher's dog Dylan loves going to the seaside

Now it's framing cats and dogs!

WELL it's raining cats and dogs – photographs that is.

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to see your family pet in print, you could also win a £100 cash prize.

It can be any animal from a dog, to a horse or even a spider as long as it is

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Our Chronicle judges are simply looking for interesting pictures. We will select 10 of our favourite pictures and then it is up to our readers to decide which picture deserves the cash prize.

To enter email the images to sue.attwater@expressandstar.co.uk and let us have your name and details, including the area you are from and a little bit of information about your pet.

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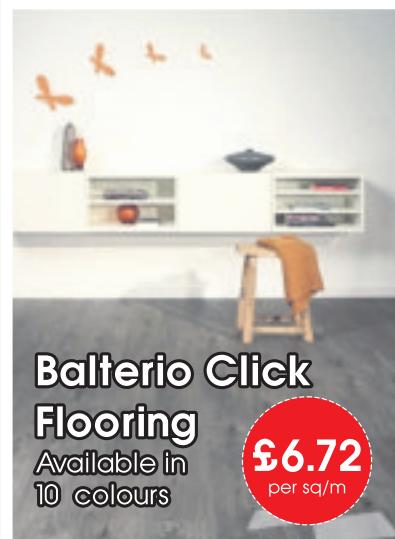
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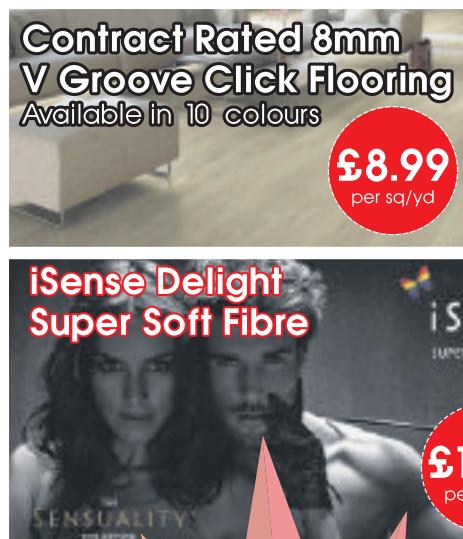
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Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
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I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. Signature _____
I would like to spend my prize money with. _____

Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is (22/09/17). The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.



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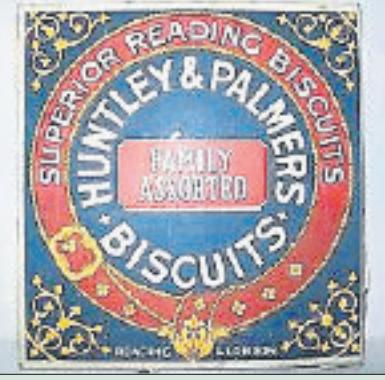
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ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES



with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



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Not that I'm suggesting you start hoarding litter – but if our ancestors had only known the value of old pots and bottles in the future they might have kept a few more for their descendants.

Vintage branded tins, bottles, pots, jars and so on are all snapped up today for display around the home.

You can find all kinds of old bottles to display in a kitchen, from those originally containing ginger beer, Coca Cola and mineral water to others made for beer, whiskey and gin – all look great displayed either individually or grouped together.

It is easy to track down some really nice old biscuit tins made by the likes of Huntley & Palmer, tea tins produced by Taylors of Harrogate, cocoa tins by Rowntree, chocolate tins by Cadbury and even old Oxo tins given to soldiers in the first World War.

Little pottery jugs made for cream are also perfect for a kitchen shelf, as are those delightful flour containers made in the shape of little bowler-hatted men by Homepride – they have become hugely collectable.

Look out for old toothpaste jars for a bathroom, plus chemists' bottles which again look good displayed together (just make sure they are empty, you don't want any unpleasant Victorian substances lurking around!).

Of course there are many reproductions of all the items mentioned so if you are looking for the genuine article check for real signs or wear and tear before you buy.

Authentic pieces will often show signs of use as they won't have been considered as being of any value by their original owners.

And some of them will have been discovered in unusual places like old rubbish tips but don't worry, they will have been thoroughly cleaned prior to sale!

Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.

The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom on Tuesday, October 3. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day. New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number. Perry & Phillips hold sales on the first Tuesday of every other month.

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Ruth: The Grand is a spiritual home

She's as breathless as a 21-year-old featuring in her first production. Yet Ruth Madoc is one of the most seasoned performers in theatre – a star who played alongside Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor and Peter O'Toole before becoming a household name through TV's *Hi-de-Hi!*

She's back on the road in a new production of *The Wedding Singer*, which features at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday until October 7.

It's 1985. Hair is huge, greed is good and rock-star wannabe Robbie Hart is New Jersey's favourite wedding singer. When his own fiancée dumps him at the altar a seriously bummed out Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. The hilarious effects play out in *The Wedding Singer*.

Ruth loves the show: "It's fantastic. It's a really good high-octane piece. There's no cynicism. It's absolutely lovely. The audience can sit down and enjoy the beat as well as enjoying the love story. It's very simple but very well done."

The Wedding Singer stars Jon Robyns, best known for *Avenue Q*, *Legally Blonde*.

QUICKLY

Sweet-natured Julia, (Cassie Compton: *X Factor*) and her best friend Holly try to lure Robbie out of the dumpster and back into the limelight?

But if he doesn't act quickly, she might head off down the aisle with Wall Street bad boy Glenn (Ray Quinn: *X Factor*, *Dancing On Ice*)? However, Grandma Rosie (Ruth) seems to be able to see that Robbie and Julia are the couple that are meant to be.

Ruth adds: "It's a blast. We started it in February and are slowly coming towards the end. We played Shrewsbury earlier this month and I enjoyed that because I'd never played it. Then we've got the Grand, in Wolverhampton, which I've played many times. I've done all sorts of different things. You name it I've done it. I did Under Milkwood when the theatre was privately owned. The lady that owned it owned the Phoenix in London and a theatre in Morecombe. That was 1965/66. I'm really looking forward to it. It's like a spiritual home."

Ruth hits the road with her husband at the start of a production and doesn't look back.

"It's a bit like being a gypsy. We put everything in the back of the Santa Fe and just keep going. We're well into our 70s and my husband and I are like two old kippers in a box."

She enjoys lining up with new stars who are gradually carving out a career. "I'm literally old enough to be their grandmother. But the cast are very good, they never leave me out just because I'm older. If they're going out socially they always include us."

On a song – Ruth Madoc (right) stars in *The Wedding Singer*



I think that's what I like about this show. And the production itself is brilliant. The dancing is just marvellous and the choreography is amazing. I still get an enormous thrill from just looking at the side of the stage and watching it."

Ruth has a remarkable CV. And she's continually re-remembering things that she's done in the past. "Funny enough one of the guys said to me in the cast last night, what did I love? He'd recorded something on Film Four.

It was a film I did with Jonathan Pryce and I'd forgotten I'd done it. It became a cult that. That was amazing. There's been other stuff over the years, like the film of *Fiddler* and the film of *Under Milkwood* with Richard Burton, which was amazing. I was in the original."

She still purrs affectionately when she remembers working with the great Richard Burton.

"He was fabulous. He was absolutely

The audience can enjoy the beat as well as enjoying the love story

super to work with. He didn't keep himself to himself, he mixed with the rest of us. There were all sorts in that: Tim Healy, Liz Taylor and Peter O'Toole."

TV, film and theatre have been the mainstays of her career – and she's loved them all. "I have enjoyed TV and stage equally. I love the stage but I love TV and film too. I like it all. I'm greedy."

And yet she's invariably linked with her portrayal of Gladys Pugh, in *Hi-de-Hi*. It's a role that has never left her – and she's grateful for that. A more recent role, in *Little Britain*, has also followed her around.

"I'll never get rid of Gladys but I loved playing her. As for *Little Britain*, well, that was offered to me but when I saw the script, my husband said 'no, it's rude'.

"So I sent it my son and he read it and he asked if I'd ever seen it. He told me I'd get street cred for doing it, so I went for it and here we are."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Express & Star every Friday.

Beverley Knight in panto mode



Bev can't wait to weave her panto magic in Brum

SOUL singer Beverley Knight is making her pantomime debut at Birmingham Hippodrome – and can't wait to thrill audiences including family and friends

The singer and West End star will take her panto bow as the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella, alongside Emmerdale, Dancing on Ice and Hear'Say star Suzanne Shaw, comic and Hippodrome panto regular Matt Slack and comedy duo Ceri Dupree and Phil Randall, who will play the Ugly Sisters.

Beverley, from Wolverhampton, said: "I can't wait. My mum and the whole crew will probably be here for the first night. All the ingredients are right. I'll be home

for Christmas and it's the UK's biggest pantomime. I couldn't say no."

Beverley saw her first panto at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre. That, as well as amateur dramatics in Wolverhampton and at Highfields School, set her on her showbiz path to R&B/pop stardom and leading lady in the West End. Now she was looking forward to adding another string to her bow.

"I'm very excited. I love coming back to this part of the world, whether it's the Civic Hall or Symphony Hall or the Hippodrome."

Music fans can catch Beverley in her more familiar role when she brings her rescheduled I Love Soulsville tour to Birmingham Symphony Hall on October 8.

Lorde above it's a busy week of gigs



POP star Lorde was an instant success at the age of 16 with her debut album Pure Heroine and her breakthrough hit single Royals in 2013.

Royals topped the singles chart on both sides of the Atlantic and the album hit the no 1 spot in more than 20 countries, winning her two Grammy Awards.

The New Zealander, whose actual name is Ella Marja Lani Yelich-O'Connor, provided the lead single, Yellow Flicker Beat, for the soundtrack to The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 in 2014.

She's back with second album Melodrama and hit tracks Green Light and Perfect Places. Her latest song, Homemade Dynamite, features a remix with Post Malone, SZA and, her tour show opener, Khalid. The Kiwi pop sensation, pictured, will be in concert for a full house at Birmingham O2 Academy on Sunday.

The Superskas are at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton tomorrow night (Friday). Nashville psych-rock outfit All Them Witches play Digbeth's O2 Institute 3 on Saturday, when DJ Shadow plays its main room and New Found Glory the O2 Academy.

Sharleen Spiteri brings Texas to Symphony Hall on Sunday. The Kentucky Headhunters bring southern rock to Robin 2 Bilston on Monday. London hip-hop artist Loyle Carner is at the O2 Institute Tuesday. On Wednesday Martin Turner from Wishbone Ash is at the Robin 2, while Ireland's The Strypes rock O2 Academy. Former Moody Blues frontman Justin Hayward is at Birmingham Town Hall next Thursday. Squeeze play Symphony Hall next Friday and Saturday with 9 Below Zero, while trio Arcane Roots top a triple bill at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms next Friday.

Dan and Jess in concert together



Singer-songwriter Dan Whitehouse, from Wolverhampton, is touring with folk/roots balladeer Jess Morgan including a gig in Edgbaston next Friday, October 6. Dan has toured with Eddi Reader and Boo Hewerdine, and opened for Joan As Police Woman. His latest album is That's Where I Belong. They will be performing at the MAC in Cannon Hill Park. See macbirmingham.co.uk. Meanwhile, acclaimed folk duo Megson are at the Red Lion in Kings Heath this Wednesday.

Always look on bright side of Spamalot

There's a lot of Spamalot about over the next few weeks and that will get Monty Python fans looking on the bright side of life. Two productions of the hit musical by former Python (and former Wolverhampton schoolboy) Eric Idle will be vying for audiences in Birmingham and Wolverhampton. A new touring production of the show 'lovingly' ripped-off from Monty Python and the Holy Grail' will be bringing killer rabbits and knights that say 'Ni!' to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to the following Saturday, October 7. Then, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre October 10 to 14, South Staffs Operatic Company present their version with sometime Fizzog James Collins as put-upon servant Patsy. Sisters Natasha Bennett-Ince and Lexie Bennett will share the role of the Lady of the Lake.

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MICHELLE, 44yrs, attractive lady, great company, hoping to meet mature gent 50+ for loving relationship. ACA/Text answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428803 ☎

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

SUE, attractive lady, genuine with many interests. I'm attracted with feminine curves. If you are a caring loving man under 70yrs call me for good times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428783 ☎

GEORGINA, 46yrs, sophisticated professional lady (teacher), quite firm but kind! Interested in finding out more? I am interested to chat to you so call me today. Text Only. Box: 4151593 ☎

JANE, curvy blonde, 47, hazel eyes, real zest for life, likes nights in/out, travels seek tall loving well built guy who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428799 ☎

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979

SUSAN, articulate interesting lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. Text Only. Box: 4047094 ☎

FRANCESCA 50s, lively blue eyed blonde, many interests, WLTM similar young at heart romantic male for amazing fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428755 ☎

MIA, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. Text Only. Box: 4079581 ☎

DAWN, attractive, easygoing, WLTM mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428417 ☎

TINA, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man. GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. Text Only. Box: 4145368 ☎

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851

SUSANNA, 48, curly female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428773 ☎

JANE, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. Text Only. Box: 4092688 ☎

SOPHIA, young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399 ☎

SUSANNA, 48, curly female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428661 ☎

CHARLOTTE, 33, classy curly blonde looking for something a bit different WLTM kind, loving, fit male for some fun and excitement. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428563 ☎

MARIA, 44, leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428447 ☎

PAT, 69, young looking, looking for someone for friendship, interests are going out for meals, reading and walking. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428461 ☎

ATTRACTIVE lady, 45yrs, loves animals, music, socialising. If you have similar interests then call or text me. Lets meet up and spend time together. Looks unimportant, must have GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428811 ☎

JOY, mid 50s independent lady, blonde, loves dining out, seeking gent of any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428373 ☎

COLIN, 72, from Burnwood, looking for loving lady for days out, holidays and company. Text only replies. Mailbox: 4880436 ☎

MALE, 20s, seeks NSA fun with female. I love a laugh, age isn't important. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042304 ☎

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CHOICE

Richard Curtis

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food.** **(R) 12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News; Weather.** **1.15 Rugby League: Super League Play-Off Highlights.** **2.15 Bargain Hunt.** **(R) 3.15 Escape to the Country.** **4.00 Final Score.** **5.10 Invictus Games 2017.** **5.40 BBC News.** **5.50 Regional Programme.**

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present.

6.45 Strictly Come Dancing. Last week, the pro-celebrity couples were given their first chance to show off their dancing prowess, and received a taste of what to expect from incoming judge Shirley Ballas and veteran adjudicators Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcey Bussell, as they assess their prepared routines. This weekend, though, the competition really gets under way. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the first live show of the series, as the scores awarded to the 15 couples in the previous round are added to those given out following this week's performances. These combined scores will determine which contestants could be facing the boot tomorrow evening.

Ultimately, though, the decision will lie with viewers at home, who are given a chance to have their say via a public vote.

8.50 Casualty. Connie tries to take her mind off her health concerns by helping Ethan improve his teaching abilities, and Elle regrets swearing off men when bonds with a young patient's father.

9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Rory and Dino have a bust-up, Mark and Betty announce they are leaving for Australia right away and a phone call causes the Brown children to suspect one of them may be adopted. **(R)**

10.10 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Manchester City and Huddersfield Town v Tottenham Hotspur.

11.55 The NFL Show. The major stories shaping the NFL world.

12.25 Film: The Salton Sea. **(2002) 2.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **2.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 How We Won the War. **(R) 6.45 Coast.** **(R) 7.30 Film:** Herbie Goes Bananas. **(1980) 9.00 Saturday Mash-Up:** Saturday Mash-Up! **9.10 Saturday Mash-Up:** Dancer Mouse. **9.35 Saturday Mash-Up:** Dancer Mouse.

10.00 Saturday Mash-Up: The Next Step. **10.20 Saturday Mash-Up:** The Next Step. **11.00 Natural World.** **(R)**

12.00 Rick Stein's Long Weekends. **(R)**

1.00 University Challenge. **(R) 2.30 Only Connect.** **(R) 3.00 Rowing World Championships.** **5.30 Gardeners' World.** **(R)**

6.30 The Big Family Cooking Showdown. Hearty helpings and Persian-inspired cuisine are the order of the day, as the Bellamores of South Wales face the Bellamores of Dorset in the penultimate round of heats. **(R)**

7.30 Front Row. Nikki Bedi's joined in discussion by Ian Hislop, and street artist Bamboi tours the new Jean-Michel Basquiat exhibition. Plus, American pop duo Sparks perform live.

8.00 Britain Afloat. New series. Mary Ann Ochota explores the history of river boats in Britain, beginning with Thames barges, which were used from Victorian times through to the early 20th century.

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and Wilson decide to recruit women into the platoon to take care of the less demanding tasks, but the captain loses his heart to an attractive widow. **(R)**

9.00 Stop All the Clocks: WH Auden in an Age of Anxiety. Adam Low explores the contemporary relevance of the poetry of WH Auden, with help from Alan Bennett, Polly Clark, Alexander McCall Smith, Richard Curtis and more.

10.00 Kate Tempest Presents. Live poetry and performance at the BBC's inaugural Contains Strong Language festival in Hull.

10.30 Later – with Jools Holland. New series. With Liam Gallagher, Benjamin Clementine and Jimmy Webb.

11.35 Film: The Edge of Love. **(2008)** Fact-based period drama about the unlikely friendship between the wife and lover of poet Dylan Thomas. Starring Keira Knightley.

1.20 Film: Trishna. **(2011) 3.05 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** **(R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** **(R) 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** **(R) 6.45 Super 4.** **(R) 7.00 Mission Employable.** **(R) 7.05 Oddbods.** **(R) 7.10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors.** **7.30 Scrambled!** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. **(R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Fangbone.** **(R) 8.10 Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls.** **(R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go.** **9.00 Scrambled!: Adventure Time.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Saturday Morning with James Martin.**

11.25 The Hungry Sailors. **(R) 12.20 ITV News; Weather.** **12.25 Midsummers Murders.** **(R) 2.25 Catchphrase.** **(R) 3.10 The X Factor.** **(R) 4.10 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **(R) 4.40 Little Big Shots.** **(R) 5.35 Regional Programme;** Weather. **5.45 ITV News; Weather.**

6.00 Cannonball. Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show.

7.00 The Family Chase. Bradley Walsh hosts as the O'Hares from Liverpool face a general knowledge duel against one of show's professional quizzers.

8.00 The X Factor. The nationwide auditions are now over, having introduced the UK to the likes of Irish busker brother Sean and Cono Price, and new dad Sam Black, who turned up to the first round of auditions with his partner and baby son in tow. Now, the long-list of would-be pop icons has been assembled, and Dermot O'Leary presents as the Boot Camp stage of this year's contest begins. Judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh set the contestants a series of tests to demonstrate their ability to sing and dance, with the outcome deciding who gets to go through to this year's Six Chair Challenge. First, the competitors must race to the Wall of Songs, where they must choose a tune to perform in a group of four. If their ensembles are successful, the stars-in-training will progress to the next stage of Boot Camp – the Arena Auditions.

9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined in the studio by US actress and singer Demi Lovato.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: American Pie 2. **(2001)** Comedy sequel, with Jason Biggs.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00 The Hungry Sailors.** **(R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 30**CHANNEL 4**

6.00 Nic Hamilton's Racing Dream. **(R) 6.55 Formula 1 Malaysian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live.** **8.25 F1 Meets Nigel Mansell.** **(R) 8.55 Formula 1 Malaysian Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** **11.45 World's Most Expensive Cars.** **(R) 12.40 The Simpsons.** **(R) 1.05 The Simpsons.**

1.30 Formula 1 Malaysian Grand Prix Qualifying. Another chance to see the Malaysian Grand Prix qualifying session.

3.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **(R) 4.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** **(R) 5.35 Location, Location, Location.** **(R)**

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. The Time Team veteran's tour of Britain's ancient trackways continues, as he ventures along Offa's Dyke, the earthwork pathway that roughly runs the length of the border between England and Wales.

Following in the footsteps of the likes of William Wordsworth, Tony makes a journey that takes in the site of what some believe could be the final resting place of King Arthur, and brings him face to face with Wales's fearsome dragon. He also ponders the worth of a gold coin issued by King Offa, the Mercian monarch who is thought to have ordered the path's construction in the eighth century.

8.00 WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trials. Monty Halls tells the story of how 33 SAS soldiers parachuted into Nazi-occupied northern Italy to carry out unpredictable rapid attacks, causing chaos among the fascist ranks.

9.00 Film: Now You See Me. **(2013)** Four magicians use their lavish stage shows as cover for a series of seemingly impossible heists, and give away the money they steal to their audiences. An FBI agent assembles a team of experts to discover how the baffling robberies are committed and what the secret agenda behind the crime spree is. Crime thriller, starring Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson and Isla Fisher.

11.15 Film: Transcendence. **(2014)** A scientist is assassinated, but resurrected as an artificial intelligence that makes horrific plans for the human race. Sci-fi drama, with Johnny Depp.

1.20 The Last Leg. **(R) 2.15 Hollyoaks.**

4.20 Location, Location, Location. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake. **10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **(R) 10.45 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2.** **(R) 11.40 On Benefits:** Depressed, Stressed and Repossessed. **(R) 12.40 Nightmare Tenants:** Get Out of My House. **(R) 1.35 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. **(R) 2.35 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** **(R) 3.35 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.**

4.40 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **(R) 5.35 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** **(R)**

6.35 Film: The Fifth Element. **(1997)**

In the 23rd century, the world faces destruction from a seemingly unstoppable force of pure evil. Meanwhile, a New York cab driver encounters a mysterious woman destined to save the Earth from its fate, and has to protect her from a scheming arms dealer and a horde of alien mercenaries. Luc Besson's sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich and Gary Oldman.

7.35 5 News Update.

7.40 Film: The Fifth Element. **(1997)** In the 23rd century, the world faces destruction from a seemingly unstoppable force of pure evil. Meanwhile, a New York cab driver encounters a mysterious woman destined to save the Earth from its fate, and has to protect her from a scheming arms dealer and a horde of alien mercenaries. Luc Besson's sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich and Gary Oldman.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Derby County, Ipswich Town v Bristol City, and Reading v Norwich City.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Bradford City v Doncaster Rovers, and Exeter City v Morecambe.

10.25 Film: Jumper. **(2008)** A man with the ability to teleport is hunted by a secret religious society determined to wipe out all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen and Samuel L. Jackson.

12.05 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Throw Momma from the Train. **(1987) 4.40 Access.** **(R) 4.50 Divine Designs.** **(R) 5.20 Wildlife SOS.** **(R) 5.45 Chinese Food in Minutes.** **(R)**

DIGITAL**BBC Four**

7.00 The Incredible Human Journey. **8.00 Wild China.** **9.00 Black Lake.** **10.25 James May: The Reasonabler.** **11.25 Top of the Pops.** **1984 12.30 Sammy Davis Jr: The Kid in the Middle.** **1.30 Bombay Railway 2.30 Wild China.**

ITV2

11.30 The X Factor. **12.35 Take Me Out 1.55 Film:** Babe. **(1995) 2.55 FY1 Daily 3.00 Film:** Babe. **(1995) 3.45 FY1 Film:** The Smurfs 2. **(2013) 4.45 FY1 Daily 4.50 Film:** The Smurfs 2. **(2013) 5.50 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

(2012) 6.50 FY1 Daily 6.55 Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00 Film:** The Hangover (2009) **10.00 FY1 Daily 10.05 Film:** The Hangover (2009) **11.10 Family Guy 12.35 American Dad!** **1.05 Celebrity Juice 1.50 Bromans 2.40 Totally Bonkers.** **Guinness World Records 2.50 Teleshopping 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen.**

ITV3

11.40 Hidden Treasure. **1.45 Rosemary & Thyme 2.45 Foyle's War 7.00 Midsomer Murders 11.05 My Boy Jack 1.05 On the Buses 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping.**

ITV4

1.30 ITV Racing Live. Coverage of today's race meetings at Newmarket and Haydock Park. **4.00 Pawn Stars 4.25 Film:** The Dam Busters (1954) **5.25 FY1 Daily 5.30 Film:** The Dam Busters (1954)

7.00 Hornblower 9.20 FY1 Daily: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) 10.20 FY1 Daily 10.25 Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **11.20 FY1 Daily 1.05 Film:** Falling Down (1993) **1.00 FY1 Daily 1.05 Film:** Falling Down (1993) **2.15 The Car Chasers 4.00 Football's Greatest: Diego Maradona 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping.**

E4

1.00 Film: Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) **2.55 Don't Tell the Bride 4.00 The Great British Bake Off 5.15 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice 5.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film:** Volcano (1997)

10.00 Film: Dredd (2012) **11.55 The Inbetweeners 1.00 Celebs Go Dating 4.00 How I Met Your Mother 4.45 Rude(ish) Tube**

Film4

11.00 A Monster in Paris (2011) 1.00 Ramona and Beezus (2010) 3.05 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) 4.55 Dr Dolittle (1998) 6.35 The Day After Tomorrow (2004) 9.00 Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011) 12.00 Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) 1.45 Come Drink with Me (1966) 3.45 Close

COMMERCIAL FEATURE**FANTASTIC CARVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK**

They always say never judge a book by its cover so we decided to check out The Park Lane Tavern in Colley Gate, and I have to say what was on offer in there was a total surprise.

It serves a carvery option 7 days a week from midday which consists of a choice of 4 meats, turkey, beef, pork and gammon and accompanied by stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and up to 12 vegetables, topped off with what they call their "secret recipe gravy" known also as what mother used to make! All this for just £4.99 for a lunchtime meal or £5.99 evenings and Saturdays and £7.99 for

But it doesn't stop there they also have a full main menu consisting of the classic pub favourites such as steaks, mixed grills, burgers and fish and chips, where the fish would not be out of place in any issue of 'Moby Dick'. To finish is there very tempting dessert menu, that's if you have room after the size of meals you get at The Park Lane Tavern.

Then if that's not enough choice for you you can also choose for the breakfast which is served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 08.30am until 11.00am. Their breakfast is a buffet style 'All you can eat' with enough choice to satisfy any diner from eggs 2 ways, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns, black pudding, grilled fresh tomatoes, toast & fried bread. There's even jam for your toast if you still not full after all that.

Half Price Monday

They also host special evenings like their 'Half Price Monday' which has proven to be very popular, and



Sunday lunch represents extremely good value by today's standards.

They also don't forget their mini diners with 'Kids Eat Free' Monday to Saturday between 3pm and 6pm and during school holidays it's All Day Monday to Saturday.



why not, already reasonably priced selected main meals off their main menu (which includes steaks) at half price served between 5pm and 8pm every Monday. Also their psychic evenings where for £15 you get a reading from a medium and a carvery, for those believers amongst you that must be a bargain. You get a very friendly feeling when you enter The Park Lane Tavern and that's mostly down to the staff. Happy to see you and always keen to help. They have

a lot of regular customers and it's been known for a customer's drink to be poured and waiting for them before they reach the bar, you don't see that at many places nowadays.

There are no airs or graces at The Park Lane Tavern, you get delicious food at great prices served by happy staff in a comfortable environment. No wonder this place has people returning time after time.



SUNDAY'S TV OCTOBER 1

CHOICE



Ant Middleton

Escape

(Channel 4, 8pm)

New series. A group of five engineers is stranded in the desert with the wreckage from a simulated plane crash and must use it to build a new vehicle to return to civilisation in. The team consists of an aerobatic pilot, a traditional craftsman, an aerospace engineer and two mechanical engineers. They must complete their task without access to a workshop and using improvised tools - while food and water are in short supply. Survival expert and former special forces soldier Ant Middleton is on hand to oversee the project.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** *7.35 Match of the Day.* (R) **9.00** *The Andrew Marr Show.* **10.00** *Sunday Morning Live.* **11.00** *Regional Programme.* **12.15** *Bargain Hunt.* (R) **1.00** *BBC News: Weather.* **1.15** *Money for Nothing.* **2.00** *Escape to the Country.* **3.00** *Points of View.* **3.15** *Songs of Praise.* **3.50** *How to Stay Young.* (R) **4.00** *Invictus Games 2017.* **5.50** *BBC News.*
- 6.05 Regional Programme.**
- 6.15 Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison presents the show from the Yorkshire border of the Peak District, following in the footsteps of the Clarion Ramblers, England's first working men's walking society. She also meets surviving members of the ramblers, and a poet and songwriter who has been inspired by the group's guidebooks. Plus, Tom Heap reports on the future of Sheffield's trees.
- 7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Pro-celebrity contest in which sets of partners battle it out to convince judges and viewers they can't beat the light fantastic.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Minehead Railway Station. Among the objects brought in to be valued are a bracelet with a connection to the Russian royal family, photographs of the Beatles taken during the filming of *A Hard Day's Night*, and a bronze sculpture by Rodin, which proves a surprise to both the owner and the experts.
- 9.00 The Last Post.** New series. Drama about military police and their families faced with political and personal conflicts in a 1960s British colony on the Red Sea coast. An officer and his wife arrive in Aden, where he is to replace a much-loved captain. Starring Jessie Buckley and Jeremy Neumark Jones.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Regional Programme.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Newcastle United v Liverpool, Everton v Burnley and Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion.
- 11.35 The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game.
- 12.10** Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 12.15 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.00 Great British Garden Revival.** (R) **7.00** *Gardeners' World.* **8.00** *The Beechgrove Garden.* **8.30** *Countryfile.* (R) **9.30** *Saturday Kitchen Best Bites – Sunday Edition.* **11.00** *Athletics: Great Scottish Run.* **1.45** *NFL Live: New Orleans Saints v Miami Dolphins.* Coverage of the match (2.30pm).
- 6.00 Rugby League Super League Play-off Highlights.** Tanya Arnold presents highlights of the crucial clash, as the sides that finished in fourth and fifth in the Super 8 Qualifiers battled for a place in next season's Super League.
- 7.00 Russia with Simon Reeve.** The adventurer embarks on a journey across the world's biggest country, taking him from the snow-capped volcanoes of the far east, through some of the remotest parts of the planet, to the great cities of the west, Moscow and St Petersburg. (R)
- 8.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes?** The finalists go to the shuttle landing facility on Florida's Space Coast, where they experience weightlessness for the first time, have their motor skills put to the test at 30,000 feet and are confronted with the dangers of space travel. They also undergo further training at a NASA underwater facility before Chris Hadfield reveals who the panel have chosen as the winner. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Dragons' Den.** Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell assess the profit-making potential of three more business ideas – a range of boxing technology, a coffee business that may be on shaky ground financially, and a female fashion advisor offering a new look to male clients. Evan Davis presents.
- 10.00 London French Live: 30 Million Minutes.** A recording of the comedienne's critically acclaimed one-woman show, which takes her audience on a journey through her life's experiences. Previously seen on BBC Four.
- 11.55 Film: Isn't She Great.** (2000) Biopic of novelist Jacqueline Susann, author of the best-selling novel, *Valley of the Dolls.* Starring Bette Midler.
- 12.15 Jackpot247.** **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** *The Jeremy Kyle Show.* (R)

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty.** **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.35** *Dino Dan: Treks Adventures.* (R) **6.45** *Super 4.* (R) **7.00** *Mission Employee.* (R) **7.05** *Oddbods.* (R) **7.10** *Thunderbirds Are Go.* (R) **7.30** *Scrambled!* *Scrambled!* Scrambled! The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** *Scrambled!* Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** *Scrambled!* Adventure Time. **9.25** *ITV News: 9.30 Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury.* (R) **10.00** *Peston on Sunday.* **10.55** *Amazing Animal Births.* (R) **11.25** *Robson Green's Coastal Lives.* (R) **11.55** *Bigheads.* (R) **12.55** *ITV News: Weather.* **1.00** *ITV Racing Live: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.* Coverage of the prestigious meeting from Chantilly. **3.30** *The X Factor.* (R) **5.00** *Victoria.* (R)
- 6.00 Regional Programme:** Weather.
- 6.10 ITV News:** Weather.
- 6.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Alan Johnson, Katherine Ryan and Jimmy Bullard answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.
- 7.30 The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents the Boot Camp stage of this year's contest. Judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh set the contestants a series of tests to demonstrate their ability to sing and dance, with the outcome deciding who gets to go through to this year's Six Chair Challenge.
- 9.00 Victoria.** The queen is horrified by news of famine sweeping Ireland, and tries to persuade the government to take action. However, Pel is reluctant to get involved, fearing that sending aid will destabilise his own party. The crisis soon strikes at the heart of the royal household, while a determined Reverend turns up on Victoria's doorstep, demanding help for his parish.
- 10.05 ITV News:** Weather.
- 10.20 Peston on Sunday.** (R)
- 11.20 Liar.** Laura Nielson and Andrew Earham find themselves entangled in a web of deceit and confusion after they enjoy a date together. (R)
- 12.15 Jackpot247.** **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** *The Jeremy Kyle Show.* (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.05 The King of Queens.** (R) **6.30** *Motor Sport: British GT.* **7.10** *Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Live Build-Up.* **7.35** *Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Live Reaction.* **10.45** *Sunday Brunch.* **1.30** *Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Re-run.* **4.15** *The Crystal Maze.* (R) **5.15** *The Great British Bake Off.* (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Escape to the Chateau.** Dick gets to work on the walled garden in the spring and buys a mini tractor for the job – but it may not fit through the gate. Angel designs another suite, with black walls and mosaic mirrors, and decorates the entire dining room with blossoms so a guest can make a special wedding proposal. The couple also consider the possibility of truffle farming.
- 8.00 Escape.** New series. A group of five engineers is stranded in the desert with the wreckage from a simulated plane crash and must use it to build a vehicle to escape in, with Ant Middleton.
- 9.00 Electric Dreams: The Commuter.** A railway station employee is desperately unhappy both in his thankless job and his unhappy home life. His son's psychotic disorder has become an unbearable burden, and is driving him and his wife apart. Everything changes when a passenger requests a ticket to a town that does not exist. He becomes tempted to follow her route in the hope that this mysterious destination may be the only place where he can escape the frustrations of his life once and for all. Starring Timothy Spall and Tuppence Middleton.
- 10.05 Boris Johnson: Bloody Ambition.** Documentary following the first 14 months of the Conservative MP's time as foreign secretary, and examining what his political ambitions may hold for the future.
- 11.00 Film: The Three Musketeers.** (2011) A hot-headed swordsman and a trio of royal guards fight to foil a plan to overthrow the king of France. Swashbuckling adventure, with Logan Lerman and Mila Jovovich.
- 1.10 WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trail.** (R) **2.05** *Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson.* (R) **3.00** *Location, Location, Location.* (R) **4.00** *Gillette World Sport.* **4.25** *KOTV Boxing Weekly.* **4.55** *Too Many Cooks.* (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** *Poppy Cat.* **6.10 Little Princess.** (R) **6.25** *Mr Men.* (R) **6.35 Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **6.40 Milkshake!** *Bopping About.* (R) **6.45** *Simon.* (R) **6.50 Peppa Pig.** (R) **6.55 Wiesper.** (R) **7.00 Bob the Builder.** (R) **7.15 Fireman Sam.** (R) **7.35 Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.55 Blaze and the Monster Machines.** (R) **8.20 Noddy: Toyland Detective.** (R) **8.35 Floogals.** (R) **8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.05 Shimmer and Shine.** (R) **9.20** *Dinby Dragon.* (R) **9.35 Peppa Pig.** (R) **9.45 Peppa Pig.** (R) **9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.30 Football on 5: The Championships.** (R) **1.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** (R) **12.00 Peppa Make You Laugh Out Loud.** (R) **12.30 Film: Bewitched.** (2005) **2.30 Film: Lead Year.** (2010) **4.20 Film: Serendipity.** (2001) Romantic drama, starring Kate Beckinsale and John Cusack. **5.20** *News Update.* **5.25 Film: Desolation of Smaug** (2013) **6.55 FYI Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug** (2013) **9.00 Chris & Kem: Straight Outta Love Island** **10.05 Family Guy** **11.30 American Dad!** **1.00 The Cleveland Show** **1.30 Chris & Kem: Straight Outta Love Island** **2.30 Teleshopping**
- 1.05 Film: Jack the Giant Slayer.** (2013) Premiere. A farm boy joins a band of knights on a mission to rescue a princess from a kingdom of giants in the sky. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicholas Hoult and Ewan McGregor.
- 7.05 5 News Update.**
- 7.10 Film: Jack the Giant Slayer.** (2013) Premiere. Concluded.
- 8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce action from the fifth round of matches, including Leicester Tigers v Exeter Chiefs, Northampton Saints v Harlequins, and Wasps v Bath.
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 Film: The Expendables 3.** (2014) Soldier of fortune Barney Ross recruits a new team to battle an arms dealer with a score to settle. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Mel Gibson.
- 10.05 Film: The Expendables 3.** (2014) Concluded.
- 11.25 Film: Under Siege.** (1992) A veteran US Navy SEAL works on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones.
- 1.20 SuperCasino.** **3.10 Film: Against All Flags.** (1952) **4.35 Chinese Food in Minutes.** (R) **4.50 Divine Designs.** (R) **5.20 Wildlife SOS.** (R) **5.45 Chinese Food in Minutes.** (R)
- 11.00 Don't Tell the Bride** **12.00 My Hotter Half** **1.00 The Goldbergs** **3.00 Film: Never Been Kissed** (1995) **5.05 Film: The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse** (2010) **11.25 Gogglebox** **1.35 Celebs Go Dating** **2.35 Celebs Go Dating:** The Finalie **3.30 Hollyoaks** **4.00 Film: The Boxtrolls** (2014) **2.50 Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World** (2011) **4.45 Von Ryan's Express** (1965) **7.05 Crocodile Dundee** (1986) **9.00 Identity Thief** (2013) **11.10 Your Highness** (2011) **1.15 Carlos** – Part One **3.25 Close**

DIGITAL

- BBC Four**
- 7.00 Robins of Eden** **7.10** *Betjeman and Me* **8.00** *Cornwall's Native Poet: Charles Causley* **9.00** *Men Who Sleep In Cars*
- 10.00 Child in Mind** **11.00 Rhymes, Rock and Revolution – The Story of Performance Poetry** **12.00** *Treasures of Ancient Greece* **3.00** *Darcey's Ballerina Heroes* **4.00** *Close*

ITV2

- 11.05 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style**
- 11.15 2Awesome: Third Wheel** **11.45 The X Factor** **1.15 You've Been Framed!**
- Family Special** **1.55 Film:** *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas* (2000) **2.55 FYI Daily 3.00 Film:** *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas* (2000) **3.45 Film:** *Happy Feet* (2006) **4.45 FYI Daily 4.50 Film:** *Happy Feet* (2006) **5.55 Film:** *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* (2013) **6.55 FYI Daily 7.00 Film:** *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* (2013) **9.00 Chris & Kem: Straight Outta Love Island** **10.05 Family Guy** **11.30 American Dad!** **1.00 The Cleveland Show** **1.30 Chris & Kem: Straight Outta Love Island** **2.30 Teleshopping**

ITV3

- 1.05 Film: The Belles of St Trinian's** (1954) **2.05 FYI Daily 2.10 Film:** *The Belles of St Trinian's* (1954) **2.55 Film:** *Columbo: Danger of the Mind* (1972) **5.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** **7.00 Midsummer Murders** **9.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium** **10.00 If I Had You** **12.00 Heartbeat** **1.05 The Knock** **3.00 Mr Selfridge** **3.50 Lewis** **5.30 Judge Judy**

ITV4

- 6.35 Goodwood Revival** **7.15 Fishing Allstars** **8.00** *The Chase Celebrity*
- 9.05 Film:** *Memphis Belle* (1990) **10.05 FYI Daily 10.10 Film:** *Memphis Belle* (1990) **11.10 Car Crash Global** **12.10 Film:** *Life on the Limit* (2013) **1.15 FYI Daily 2.20 Film:** *Life on the Limit* (2013) **2.30 The Car Chasers** **2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00 Teleshopping**
- E4**
- 11.00 Don't Tell the Bride** **12.00 My Hotter Half** **1.00 The Goldbergs** **3.00 Film:** *Never Been Kissed* (1995) **5.05 Film:** *The Big Bang Theory* **9.00 Film:** *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse* (2010) **11.25 Gogglebox** **1.35 Celebs Go Dating** **2.35 Celebs Go Dating:** The Finalie **3.30 Hollyoaks** **4.00 Film:** *The Boxtrolls* (2014) **2.50 Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World** (2011) **4.45 Von Ryan's Express** (1965) **7.05 Crocodile Dundee** (1986) **9.00 Identity Thief** (2013) **11.10 Your Highness** (2011) **1.15 Carlos** – Part One **3.25 Close**



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PUB OF THE YEAR 2017

Halesowen CHRONICLE

Have your say.

The Halesowen Chronicle are asking you to vote for your favourite Pub.

Every vote counts, so tell your family and friends to get involved and help us find the Best Pub In Halesowen 2017

VOTE VOTE

OSTLER'S

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Every 3rd THURSDAY of the Month



WE HAVE...

LIVE BANDS and MUSIC From 9:30pm

Every FRIDAY and SATURDAY Night

ALL REAL ales

£2.50 per pint
MONDAY-FRIDAY 11:30 - 5:00



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Hello and welcome to the 'NEW' Waggon and Horses !!



After extensive renovation works we have turned an old outdated pub around and made it in to a cool urban ale venue.

We have a great ranges of real ales and guest ciders all on our 8 handpumps, a large variety of bottles, wines, spirits, coffee and so much more.... there is definitely enough to choose from.

on top of that we house an outside bar, heated garden, 7 big screen TVs showing sky sport and bt sport and a kitchen serving nothing but traditional bar snacks such as burgers, hot dogs, ribs, chicken bites etc

and if that wasn't enough we host different events on a regular basis and have live bands playing here every Friday and Saturday night free of charge!

We pride ourselves on great beer, great food and a great atmosphere!!!

NEW FOOD MENU NOW AVAILABLE

- Great Cask Ales
- Beer Garden
- Function Room
- Families Welcome



Barry welcomes you to **THE LIGHTHOUSE**
Coombes Road, Halesowen 0121 559 7953

Family Welcoming Pub



Barry and Jane Woodward would like to welcome all old and new customers to The Lighthouse, which is located on Coombes Road, Halesowen.

The Lighthouse is a free house which is only a few remaining in the Halesowen area.

All families are welcome to the Lighthouse and they have recently introduced a new menu which features all your pub grub classics along with a children's menu so the little ones will not be disappointed.

The Lighthouse also caters for private functions with a separate function room available, ideal for all occasions including birthday parties, christenings and weddings.

Barry (With over 30 years experience in the trade which stands at one of the longest standing licensee's) prides himself on serving all customers a decent pint, along with your favourite brands he also offers great cask ales to choose from.

For more information please feel free to contact the Lighthouse The Lighthouse, Coombes Road, Halesowen 0121 559 7953

Olde Queens Head UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY NIGHT
COUNTRY NIGHT

SATURDAY
30TH SEPTEMBER
80'S NIGHT

FANCY DRESS
PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED

SATURDAY
7TH OCTOBER
THUNDER DAZE

GUITAR DRIVEN AMERICAN
WEST COAST FLAVOUR

- Carvery Tuesday - Friday 12.30 till it's gone
- Carvery and Pudding £6
- Carvery Only £4.50
- Children under 5 eat FREE
- Sunday Carvery 12-4pm
- Carvery and Pudding Adults £9.95 Children £7.95
- Carvery Only Adults £6.95 Children £4.95
- Pub Grub Menu also available

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Jules and Hayden have recently taken over The Olde Queens Head and it's been going from strength to strength since.

Offering fantastic meals from pub grub to Carvery's there's something for every pallet which have people coming back week after week clearing their plates each time. As well as the superb food on offer they also have a brilliant entertainment week in week out, from open mic nights, motown nights, DJ'S, live bands and their upcoming 80's fancy dress night where prizes are up for grabs for the best dressed. Monday club is a great success with drinks being served at bargain prices from 12-11pm.

So come see for yourself where a great friendly welcome awaits you from everyone at The Olde Queens Head.

VOTE VOTE

**Win £25 to spend with
your favourite pub**

Halesowen

CHRONICLE PUB OF THE YEAR 2017

Entries to be sent to Halesowen Chronicle Pub of the Year 2017.

Closing date 6/10/17, Black Country house,

Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4DG

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

Welcome to the all new Britt Brewery at The Britannia Inn,
the first Brewery in Rowley Village for 100 years.

At The Britt we like to make you feel right at home, think comfy chairs and sofas, open fires and a warm and welcoming environment.

Run by a CAMRA award winning landlord and his team, The Britt offers 10 real ales and 6 real ciders as well as an extensive gin menu.

The kitchen is open Mon-Fri 12-2pm and 5-9pm and Sat 12-9pm serving a range of locally sourced sausages, delicious pies and traditional faggots as well as tasty burgers. A full home cooked Sunday lunch is available between 12-6pm with a choice of 3 meats and heaps of delicious veggies, served with lashings of gravy.

If that's not enough to encourage you to visit, try out our entertainment offering which includes a DJ every Friday and live music every Saturday.

So...what are you waiting for?

Pop in for a pint or 2, sit by the fire and enjoy the all new Britt Brewery at the Britannia Inn.

To keep up to date with what's new at The Britt, visit our Facebook page @thebrittbrewery



Cheers
to all our
old and new
clients...

Fantastic Food with Plenty of Choices whether its Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner your after

The park Lane Tavern is what your after. Offering all you can eat Buffet breakfasts Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8:30 until 11am or Carvery 7 days a week from midday with a choice of 4 meats, up to 12 veg and their secret recipe gravy.

Kids Eat Free Monday- Saturday between 3pm and 6pm with this changing to all day Monday- Saturday during the school holidays. Like this isn't already enough they also host Half Price Mondays which is available on their main menu including steaks.

So save yourself the washing up and get yourself here for delicious food at even tastier prices!



Offering a warm welcome



Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath's Shoulder of Mutton pub.

For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES.

For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WiFi to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

Best Pub	
Title	First Name	Surname
Address		
Postcode	Tel:	Email:
I have read the rules and agree to abide by them		

T&Cs
Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 6th October 2017. The winner will be notified by post. The first entry drawn by the winning pub will receive the prize. No photocopies of coupons will be accepted. The editor's decision is final. There is no cash alternative. The employees of MNA group of companies and their immediate family cannot enter. The winner must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE


THE BRITANNIA
 PUB & BREWERY

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

FRIDAY NIGHT:
BLACK COUNTRY RADIO DJ BIG AL 9AM - 1AM

SATURDAY NIGHT:
THE STRAIGHT ACES 9PM - 1AM

7th Oct: Still Crazy

Food being served 12 noon - 2pm;
5pm - 9pm Mon - Thurs
12 noon - 6pm Fri - Sun

Brewery

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off our main menu 5pm - 8pm to include steak and grills

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 Under 12's (with paying adult)**
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Breakfast Only £4.45
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JOIN OUR NEW LOYALTY CARD SCHEME
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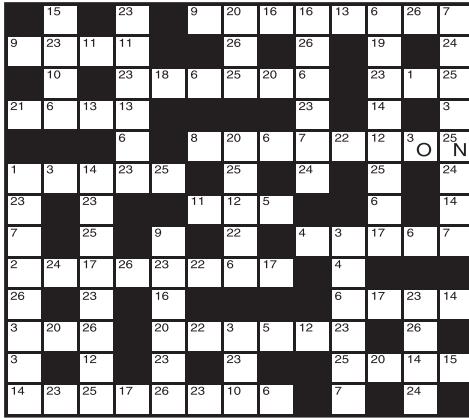
Terms and conditions apply.
 Card for illustration purposes only.

BRAIN GYM

No.449

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	F	2	G	3	B	4	J	5	D	6	T	7	V	8	A	9	M	10	H	11	W	12	O	13	N
14	I	15	K	16	X	17	Z	18	P	19	L	20	Y	21	Q	22	R	23	S	24	O	25	U	26	O

Quiz

- Which gender of gnat draws blood?
- Of which group of islands is Mount Apo the highest peak?
- Which Archers part has been played by Trevor Harrison?
- What was known until July 1940 as the Local Defence Volunteers?
- Which notorious sportsman's double
- murder trial was presided over by Judge Lance Ito?
- What do the initials ECG stand for?
- What is the capital of Tibet?
- Calamine is a form of which metal?
- In which country is the river port Fray Bentos?
- What is measured in ohms?

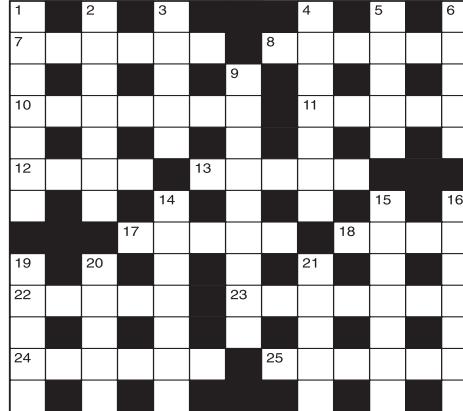
Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Successfully treated the French in capital (6)
- Opening part of the gun, we hear (6)
- A connection for fire-water (7)
- Means of verifying a sudden repulse (5)
- & 14Dn. Roguish clerics? (4,7)
- Nervous time in the grammar lesson (5)
- & 5Dn. Course builder (10)
- Small valley to be found in Eden (4)
- Come up for an increment (5)
- A poster showing basketwork material (7)
- I will be included in the schemes for those who take flight (6)
- Rough medley races round the ring (6)
- See 6 Down
- Possessed a landing-place for fish (7)
- Plane crash in the Himalayas (5)
- Method of manufacturing company put back in the papers (7)
- See 17 Across
- To perturb the principal, indicate refusal (5,3,4)
- & 15Dn. They take the litter away (9-7)
- See 12 Across
- See 9 Down
- Take out insurance again, but get better! (7)
- Western reptiles are stingers (5)
- House I will put in Virginia (5)
- Rings up for cotton reel (5)
- Unconcern (6)
- Enrage (6)
- Whet (7)
- Courage (5)
- Wicked (4)
- Love (5)
- Beneath (5)
- Encroachment (9)
- Easily broken (7)
- Since (7)
- Implied (5)
- Pariah (7)
- Condition (6)
- Critic (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Bulky (7)
- Handcuff (7)
- Form (5)
- Dawdle (7)
- Love (5)
- Beneath (5)
- Encroachment (9)
- Easily broken (7)
- Since (7)
- Clothing (7)
- Stick (5)
- Shrewd (5)
- Precipitous (5)

Down

- Alliance; 17 Icon; 20 Extra; 21 Article; 22 Species; 23 Plant; 24 Animal; 25 Housemakers; 2 Arena; 3 Thus; 4 Galore; 5 Rhoestat; 6 Frigate; 7 Entertainment; 12 Cataract; 13 Palette; 15 Scrape; 18 Cocao; 19 Stop.
- Quick - Across: 1 Split; 4 Pretext; 8 Revenue; 9 Think; 10 Eddy; 11 Negation; 13 Ring; 14 Scan; 16 Together; 17 Idea; 20 Opera; 21 Archaic; 22 Suspect; 23 Dunes.
- Down: 1 Surreptitious; 2 Livid; 3 Tang; 4 Peeved; 5 Entrance; 6 Edition; 7 Take no chances; 12 Initiate; 13 Regress; 15 Depart; 18 Drain; 19 Acid.

Sudoku



FILL IN THE GRID ABOVE SO THAT EVERY COLUMN, EVERY ROW AND EACH OF THE 3x3 BOXES CONTAINS ALL THE DIGITS FROM 1 TO 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
 1 9 7 2 3 8 5 6 4
 6 4 8 5 7 9 1 3 2
 2 3 5 4 6 1 7 9 8
 5 1 6 9 4 7 2 8 3
 3 7 4 6 8 2 9 1 5
 8 2 9 3 1 5 4 7 6
 4 5 1 8 9 3 6 2 7
 9 6 3 7 2 4 8 5 1
 7 8 2 1 5 6 3 4 9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Heart; 4 Giraffe; 8 Unequal; 9 Evert; 10 Elan; 11 Fresh air; 13 Play; 14 Base; 16 Alliance; 17 Icon; 20 Extra; 21 Article; 22 Species; 23 Plant; 24 Animal; 25 Housemakers; 2 Arena; 3 Thus; 4 Galore; 5 Rhoestat; 6 Frigate; 7 Entertainment; 12 Cataract; 13 Palette; 15 Scrape; 18 Cocao; 19 Stop.

QUICK - Across: 1 Split; 4 Pretext; 8 Revenue; 9 Think; 10 Eddy; 11 Negation; 13 Ring; 14 Scan; 16 Together; 17 Idea; 20 Opera; 21 Archaic; 22 Suspect; 23 Dunes.

Down: 1 Surreptitious; 2 Livid; 3 Tang; 4 Peeved; 5 Entrance; 6 Edition; 7 Take no chances; 12 Initiate; 13 Regress; 15 Depart; 18 Drain; 19 Acid.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7682365
1932
7641732

gives a fire,
gives a second fire,
gives fire up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Star Reader Travel

Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Choose from a selection of shows

42nd Street, Aladdin, Annie, An American in Paris, Dreamgirls, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia!, Matilda, Motown, The Phantom of the Opera, School of Rock, Stomp, The Lion King, Wicked and more...!

Not all shows are available on all breaks. Please call for details.

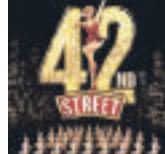


Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge



Return rail travel from Birmingham New Street, Stafford and Wolverhampton

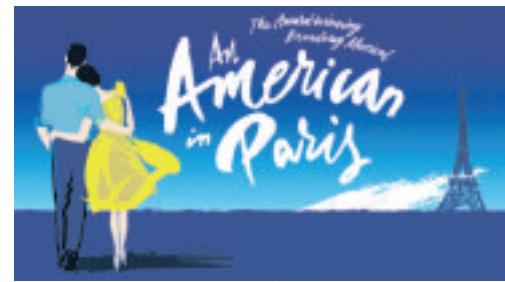
NOW INCLUDING
GREAT NEW
WEST END SHOWS
TO CHOOSE FROM



Quote Code: LCE075

FABULOUS FRIDAY THEATRE BREAK

Hotel & Ticket Package



Most weekend dates throughout 2017

With this fabulous-value hotel & ticket package you get a Stalls or Dress Circle ticket for a choice of top West End show (value £65-£77) plus an overnight stay in a 4 star central London hotel with breakfast.

Price Includes...

- ✓ Stalls or Dress Circle ticket for a Friday evening performance of your chosen show
- ✓ Overnight stay at a choice of 4 star central London hotels with full English breakfast

2 days,
Hotel & Ticket
Package

from £119.
.95pp

SATURDAY NIGHT LONDON THEATRE BY COACH

Selected Saturday departures until April 2018

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- ✓ A ticket for a Saturday evening performance of a TOP West End Show from our fabulous selection
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Return standard class rail travel to London



2 days,
by coach
from

£159.
.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/CQT007

Quote Code:
CQT007

Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.



2 days,
by rail
from

£179.
.95pp

View product online at
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Quote Code:
UPG809

Single room supplement £50pp. Subject to availability.

For more information or to book, please call: 01902 902165

OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00

SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00

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View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/LCE075

Single room supplements £60pp. Subject to availability.

Ticket



Outstanding three-bed home in sought-after road

A highly attractive and outstanding three-bedroomed detached home, 51 Oakham Road, Dudley, lies in one of the area's most sought-after and desirable roads.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £328,000.

This impressive property has very well-maintained accommodation having some fine features. This briefly comprises an enclosed porch, reception hall, superb through lounge/dining area with bay windows

DUDLEY
£328,000

to the front and rear, re-fitted fine breakfast kitchen, conservatory, spacious landing, three good-sized bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, adjoining garaging and delightful, excellent-sized gardens.

The property is set back from the road behind a screened paved

frontage with shrubbery gardens and driveway giving access to the garage.

Having a bay window, the through lounge/dining area has a period-style gas fired stove and French doors opening to the rear garden.

The breakfast kitchen includes an integral electric oven, gas hob and extractor over and a built in fridge/freezer.

Call 01384 213395.



Large family house in a great location for commuting

An extremely large detached family home in a convenient location in Grange Road, Halesowen, lies in a convenient location, close to shops, public transport and schools.

Within easy reach of the motorway network, making it ideally positioned for commuting, it is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £335,000.

The accommodation briefly comprises a character hallway, a cloakroom/WC, a large lounge, a

HALESOWEN
£335,000

spacious dining room, a breakfast room/sitting room, a fully fitted kitchen with appliances, a cellar and a workshop/utility area offering scope for further development.

on the second floor. The property has a garage, a large driveway and attractive rear garden.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this property.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, call the selling agents, Hicks Hadley, at their local branch office on 0121 585 6667.

LET

HALESOWEN, Grange Road £975 pcm+ Fees

A deceptively spacious detached family home with many character features, entrance hallway with parquet flooring, large lounge with multi fuel burner, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, 3 double bedrooms, large refitted bathroom, private opening to a balcony with decking & beautiful private large rear garden, long rear garden, large detached garage with electric roller door, gas central heating, double glazed. EPC: E

NEW

CRADLEY HEATH, High Haden Road £795 pcm+ Fees

An individual detached bungalow situated in this very quiet location with outstanding views to the rear of the property. Entrance hallway leading to 2 good size bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower room, further family bathroom with shower over bath, large lounge with patio doors opening to a balcony with decking & beautiful private large rear garden, fitted kitchen with appliances, gas central heating, double glazed. EPC: B

NEW

CARDLEY HEATH, Greenfield Ave £695 pcm+ Fees

Fully refurbished semi detached house not to be missed. Large corner plot situated within walking distance of Cradley Heath Train Station and Cradley Town Centre. Featuring 1 reception room, beautiful fitted kitchen/diner, utility room, house bathroom with shower, also driveway for at least 4 cars. Call now to get a viewing and not miss out. EPC: TBC

LET

BRIERLEY HILL, Wychbury Road £675 pcm+ Fees

This lovely semi detached house has been recently refurbished to a high standard & comprises of hall, extended lounge & kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, tandem garage, front and rear gardens, central heating and double glazing. EPC: D

LET

HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place £650 pcm+ Fees

Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B

LET

CRADLEY HEATH, St Anne's Road £650 pcm+ Fees

Fully redecorated and new carpets throughout. An unfurnished semi-detached home close to local shops and Cradley Heath Train Station. Featuring 3 good bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, large rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC: TBC

LET

HALESOWEN, Colley Gate, Barnswood Close £595 pcm+ Fees

A well presented newly painted mid terraced property comprising hallway with stairs to first floor, fitted kitchen, large lounge with patio doors leading to rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing, double bedroom with fitted wardrobe and a further smaller double, white bathroom suite with shower over bath and tiled floor off road parking at the front of the property. EPC: C

LET

HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road £575 pcm+ Fees

Ideal for walking to Halesowen Town Centre, Earls and Windsor High School. This lovely mid terrace property has a large front garden, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, shared rear garden, on road parking. EPC: D

LET

HALESOWEN, Blackheath, Southwick Road £550 pcm+ Fees

Located minutes from Broadheath Town Centre and a short drive away from the M5 J2 and Rowley Regis Train Station. This refurbished 2 bed mid-terraced house features a brand new fitted kitchen, 2 lovely reception rooms, private rear garden, white bathroom suite with shower, 2 double bedrooms, on road parking. EPC: D

LET

WORDSLY, Wordsley Court £525 pcm+ Fees

1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Green & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen (no appliances), shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C

LET

QUARRY BANK, New Street £525 pcm+ Fees

A unique detached bungalow within walking distance of Quarry Bank High Street and a stones throw from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This 1 bed property features: hallway, lounge with feature fireplace and patio doors leading to garden, double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower. The bungalow also benefits from long driveway, gas central heating and double glazed. EPC: D

LET

HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road £495 pcm+ Fees

A lovely flat that has been fully re-furbished to a very high standard above a shop and within walking distance of town centre comprising of: large living room, kitchen with oven/hob, double bedroom, double bedroom, double shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, parking to side of property. EPC: TBC

LET

BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £425 pcm+ Fees

Situated in a quiet location and within walking distance to Brierley Hill Town Centre and a short drive or bus to Merry Hill Shopping Centre this ground floor apartment, comprising of: 1 double bedroom and 1 single, fitted kitchen with appliances, house bathroom with shower, spacious lounge, electric heating, double glazing, 1 allocated parking space. EPC: TBC

LET

CRADLEY HEATH, Upper High Street £395 pcm+ Fees

Modern ground floor flat close to Cradley Heath train station & all bus routes. Featuring an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, hallway to 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, electric central heating, communal garden to rear of property, on road parking. Only 1 months security deposit • 1 months rent in advance. EPC: C

LET

HALESOWEN, Eagle House £285 pcm+ Fees

1st floor studio apartment in the centre of Lye Town, also close for Lye Train Station. Featuring a combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, shower room, electric heater, shared laundry room, parking at rear, private communal area with seating. EPC: E

LET

AMBLOCOTE, High Street £775 pcm+ Fees

A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development 'Crystal Gardens'. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. This property will not be available for long. EPC: B

30

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

funeral directors

N.E.DOWNING (Blackheath) Ltd
Independent family run Funeral Directors 24 hour service Halesowen 0121 422 2794 www.nedowning.co.uk

caravans / motorhomes


SITED NEAR BEWDLEY static mobile home, on site clubhouse, swimming pools, superb views. No time limits on your unit. £20,000 07717090817

monumental masons

HALESTONE MEMORIALS Modern and traditional memorials Ring for FREE brochure 0121 550 4235 Or visit our showroom at Somers Road, Halesowen B62 8EN www.halestonememorials.co.uk

lost & found

LOST From W-ton Road, Sedgley, Thursday, Sept 14, small black and white female cat, please check sheds. 01902 681316.



MISSING

Daisy, a three year old black and white cat with four white paws, from Synd Park Estate Willenhall. She is micro-chipped and suffers from a heart condition. Any information 07804 329903.

1 Family

elderly & disabled
CADIZ SHOPRIDER mobility scooter, with canopy. 01902 3041319.

2 Leisure Time

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS Any age or condition. Also motorhomes wanted. **TOP PRICES PAID** Immediate collection. **CALL THOMAS 07711 280 996** www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

3 Home & Services

furniture
CANES CONSERVATORY set, breakfast table, 2 chairs, 2 armchairs, very good condition, £175 ono. 01384 295788.

WANTED VINTAGE TAMIYA REMOTE CONTROL MODELS

SLEIGH BED CHESTERFIELD STYLE 4ft 6", beautiful crushed velvet, bespoke, handmade, unused. Cost over £700 accept £295. 0778 7636984.

household appliances
NEFF COOKERS Inter grated full size cooker, fan assisted. Also matching combination cooker with microwave. Both cookers in new condition. £50 ono. 01922 419189.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ANTTIQUES COLLECTABLES FURNITURE FOR SALE (New and old) Sunday, September 24, At Grange Farm Shop, Albrighton. Cosford Grange Farm Shifnal TF11 9JB. 10am-2pm. 07973 775560.

COUNTRY AND WESTERN items, 6 hats, belts, saddlebags and many other things. Offers. 07486 241199.

ITEMS WANTED
A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS Any gauge or age Hornby/Bachmann/Brownhams/Roundhouse/Graham/Parsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On. 0121 532 2544/07891 713547 therainmaster67@hotmail.com

MASSAGE
MOBILE Aromatherapy, Massage Therapist Home / Hotel. To book appointments call 07437 569187.

WHAT'S ON

ANTIQUE FAIRS
ANTIQUES/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 1st October (inc postcards) (also Bromsgrove every Fri) EST 1979 Paverley. Next Book Fair Sun 15th Oct. Stalls available for all comers, made refreshments. 0121 550 4381

MARKETS
BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC WS1 4SA. FREE PARKING, J9 M6 07889 975701 All hard standing

READERS ARE ADVISED TO carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted plus any old Crash Magazines. Wanted also any old your Sinclair magazines. 01902 892918.

WANTED VINTAGE TAMIYA REMOTE CONTROL MODELS

Also any old radio controlled models in any condition, Mardave, Kyoco, Traxxas, HPi Team Associated, Schumacher Big or small collections bought. 07568 585075 or 0121 532 2544.

specialists at your service

aerials
AA DIGITAL AERIALS AA SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/wall mount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

fencing
PORTWAY FENCING SPECIAL OFFER 10 Bays of quality panel concrete posts, Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted. 0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656 Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm Sat 8am - 12noon 83 Portway Rd, W'bury **DELIVERY AVAILABLE** www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services
GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden, 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

H GARDEN SERVICES No Job To Small! Free Quotes! 07752 146554 or 07835 905090

gas fitting
READERS ARE ADVISED To check if anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

ALARMS/SECURITY
SUPPLIED AND FITTED £249 Servicing and Repairs 12 Months Warranty All areas covered All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249 Servicing and Repairs 12 Months Warranty All areas covered All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services
G & D BUILDERS Over 35 years exp All aspects of building work Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping. All work guaranteed
07837 994465 / 01902 579592

AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED
SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC
ALSO GARAGE CLEARANCES Old Enamel Signs, Petrol Cans, Old Jugs, Bikes and Motorbikes. Anything old.
**** TOP PRICES PAID ****
0121 532 2544/07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED TO carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices. Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

removals
KT HOUSE REMOVALS 12 years experience, SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS, LOCAL OR DISTANCE, FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on: **07771 727119**

building supplies
LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed, Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

roofing
New Roofs, Slating, Tiling, GRP Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings uPVC Fascia Cladding.

0121 602 0346
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overhaul roofing

specialists at your service

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AA DIGITAL AERIALS AA SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/wall mount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

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new roofing, re roofing, leak repairs, emergency repairs, lead work, tiling and slating.

07476 834512 0121 4204374
www.stopsandpage.co.uk

READERS ARE ADVISED TO take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

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alarms/security
SUPPLIED AND FITTED £249 Servicing and Repairs 12 Months Warranty All areas covered All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

house clearances
ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

plastering
M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897 STEVE'S PLASTERING SERVICE Residential, Commercial Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals
KT HOUSE REMOVALS 12 years experience, SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS, LOCAL OR DISTANCE, FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on: **07771 727119**

building services
CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

rubbish removal
LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed, Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

roofing
New Roofs, Slating, Tiling, GRP Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings uPVC Fascia Cladding.

0121 602 0346
07904 736165

overhaul roofing

specialists at your service

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H GARDEN SERVICES No Job To Small! Free Quotes! 07752 146554 or 07835 905090

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aerials
AA DIGITAL AERIALS AA SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/wall mount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

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new roofing, re roofing, leak repairs, emergency repairs, lead work, tiling and slating.

07476 834512 0121 4204374
www.stopsandpage.co.uk

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PORTWAY FENCING SPECIAL OFFER 10 Bays of quality panel concrete posts, Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted. 0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656 Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm Sat 8am - 12noon 83 Portway Rd, W'bury **DELIVERY AVAILABLE** www.portwayfencing.co.uk

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GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden, 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

H GARDEN SERVICES No Job To Small! Free Quotes! 07752 146554 or 07835 905090

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READERS ARE ADVISED To check if anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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SUPPLIED AND FITTED £249 Servicing and Repairs 12 Months Warranty All areas covered All quotes beaten!
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ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

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M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897 STEVE'S PLASTERING SERVICE Residential, Commercial Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

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KT HOUSE REMOVALS 12 years experience, SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS, LOCAL OR DISTANCE, FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on: **07771 727119**

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CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

rubbish removal
LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed, Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

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New Roofs, Slating, Tiling, GRP Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings uPVC Fascia Cladding.

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8 Motoring

cars under £1500



AUDI A4 1.9 TDI

1998, 134,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows/mirrors, air bag, alloy wheels, alarm, 12 months MoT, 6 CD player, 3 keys, lady owner, first to see will buy.

£795.

07824 640192.



FORD FIESTA

2002, red, 5dr, 52k miles, 6 months MOT, excellent condition
£550 o.n.o.

07504 775959

BARGAIN
CITROEN C5 ESTATE

2002 diesel
Very good condition
Full MoT
SOLD



RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE DCI

2005 (55) 99,950 Miles, Silver, abs, e/w, alarm, MOT Sep 2018, central locking, pas, diesel, sunroof, Alloys, CD. Good Condition.

£1,095
07411 236615



VAUXHALL CORSA 998CC

2003, blue, MoT July 2018, good clean condition inside and out, 76,000 miles.

£800.

Telephone 07758 013170.

(Fordhouses).

BARGAIN
NISSAN MICRA 1.0 CC

2002 Reg., 8 months MoT, met silver, good condition, new battery, lady driver, new car forces sale.

£250 o.n.o.

07791 703843.

GOOD RUNNER
FORD FOCUS 54 PLATE, 1796cc. PETROL.

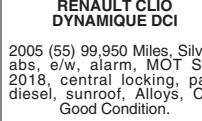
61,000 miles.
9 months MoT.
Good runner.
Good condition.
£450 o.n.o.
07845 112592.



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Alloy wheels, 2 new tyres.
Reg P577JAR,
recent new battery.
Spare or repair.

OFFERS.
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MERCEDES A160

5dr, 1.6 hatchback, 2001, 83,000 miles, MoT September 2018, excellent condition, good value

£675

01902 753807.



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£800.

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(Fordhouses).

cars over £1500

BARGAIN
NISSAN MICRA 1.0 CC

2002 Reg., 8 months MoT, met silver, good condition, new battery, lady driver, new car forces sale.

£250 o.n.o.

07791 703843.



FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4

5dr Automatic
33,500 miles, 9 months MoT, metallic silver, 2 lady owners, very good condition.

£5,950.

07910 263625.



KIA SPORTAGE XE

2009, 81,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air con, iSh, 8 months MoT, metallic paint, central locking, 1 previous owner, excellent condition.

£3,000.

07802 366512.



NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW

2009, 2.5DCi, twin cab, van truck with rear cover, alloys, new tyres, side steps, black with grey leather, very clean, 179,000 miles.

£5,995

07411 414284.



MAZDA MX 1.8S ROADSTER
MoT April 2018, registered 2001, 10 services, immaculate bronze, alloys, EW, Pioneer DAB sound, chrome roll bars, garaged.

Bargain £1,575
0121 384 7888 /
07771 428793.



MITSUBISHI LANCER GS
2009, 123,000 miles, black, ABS, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long Mot, metallic paint, central locking, very good condition.

£1,800 ono.
07815 768028.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would really remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



4X4
NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW
2009, 2.5DCi, twin cab, van truck with rear cover, alloys, new tyres, side steps, black with grey leather, very clean, 179,000 miles.

£5,995 spent on vehicle.

07411 414284.

MUST BE SEEN

NISSAN QASHQAI
N-TEC 1500CC
70,000 miles.
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Silver. Extras.
Very good condition.
£6,750ono
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1275cc

1992, 55,741 miles, MoT till
March 2018, british racing
green, electric sunroof.

£3,000 omo

07549 160950

West Midlands



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petrol, manual, MoT September
2018, 55,000 miles, two keys,
alloys, excellent condition.

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many new parts, 2009.
£700 omo
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spares &
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personal



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OUT THERE'
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with GSOH, to enjoy meals in
and out, days, nights out and
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Genuine replies only.
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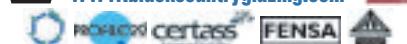
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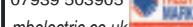
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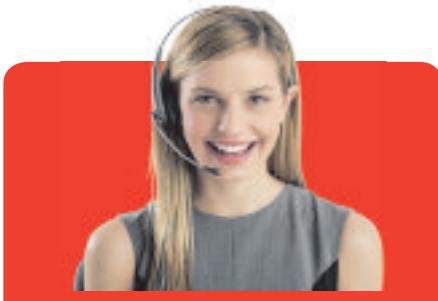
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Classified Ads

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



A chassis rethink transformed the car

Audi cabriolet is good-looking and as nicely crafted as ever

By Ian Donaldson

It doesn't take long – a few metres and a couple of potholes will do – to discover that the new Audi A5 Cabriolet is comfortably better than the car it replaces.

For, like the A5 Coupe and four-door A5 Sportback it joined, this soft-top Audi aims to add more than style to the ownership experience.

High on the list of must-have changes was comfort. Or as an Audi spokesman said: "The cars now have a much more compliant ride. It was perhaps a little bit too firm, especially for UK roads."

"Hallelujah!" you might shout in reply after years of Audis that performed beautifully on (Germanically) smooth roads but went to pieces on a typically potholed UK surface.

Better late than never, though.

This chassis rethink has transformed the car, tested here in the latest Cabriolet form and as good looking and nicely crafted as ever.

The two petrol engines are a 2.0 litre with 190 horsepower and the 3.0 litre six-cylinder in the 155mph S5 range topper with its eight-speed auto gearbox and quattro four-wheel drive.



Oak Garage .co.uk

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63	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi Design Nav [110] Grey 10000 Miles	£9,495
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62	Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI Elegance Maroon 11000 Miles	£7,495
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14	Citroen Berlingo Multispace 1.6 HDi 90 Plus Blue 14k	£9,295
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On the road price	£9,495.00
Customer deposit	£400.00
Total amount of credit	£9,095.00
Total amount payable	£12,286.90
APR	11.1%
Total interest payable	£2,791.90
Fixed rate of interest pa	5%
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The car is bigger but it is snug in the back

It will hit 62mph in 5.1 seconds and consume petrol at an average of 36.2mpg in the official test, with CO2 emissions of 177g/km and a list price topping £40,000.

This latest A5 Cabriolet is a little longer (+47mm) and a fraction narrower (-8mm) than before. Stretching the distance between front and rear wheels by 14mm and designing thinner seats have improved space inside the cabin, though it remains snug for adult-sized passengers in the rear.

They won't mind the lack of stretching room in a car designed to look good with roof up or down – it retracts in 15 seconds at the prod of a switch and closes in 18 seconds, both operations possible at up to 31mph, which will stop pedestrians in their tracks if attempted in a busy town centre.

Practicality is assured by a boot that measures 380 litres with the roof up or a still reasonable 320 litres when it folded. The rear seat has a 50/50 split if you need more luggage room and the boot lid now opens with the standard remote control key or a button in the driver's door.

Weight savings of up to a modest 40 kilos (it varies by version and the lightest newcomer still tips the scales at 1,690kgs) have come from moves as varied as high strength steel for the new front seats, an aluminium brake pedal – and even using lighter carpets.

As well as adding lightness the latest cabriolet also has a stiffer body, always hard to achieve when you cut the metal roof off a design. That ought to reap benefits in both ride comfort and fewer squeaks and rattles from the roof.

Or, in the case of this car, no squeaks or rattles at all. Yes, there was the mildest shimmy on bad surfaces but not enough to matter, or really even notice after the first couple of miles.

Hood down and mesh wind deflector in place, a sunny day with 9C showing on the dash brings fresh air heaven even at a 70mph motorway cruise.

Drop down to 60mph and you wonder if a hood is ever required apart from when the rain arrives – the cockpit is so cosy and quiet.

There is plenty of pull when needed and you'd really not know a diesel was doing the work until you checked the trip computer to discover even used with enthusiasm the car is returning better than 40mpg.

How comfortable does that make you feel...?



Ivan presents trophies to Tai Woffinden (1st) Kevin Wolbert (2nd) and Nicolai Klindt



Ivan Mauger leads Ole Olsen and at the back Doug Wyer at Wembley in 1976



Speedway supremo Ivan Mauger – the six times world champion rider



One of the bikes up for sale at the auction to be held next month

Richie to train Rio for boxing debut

FORMER world champion Richie Woodhall will train former England captain Rio Ferdinand in his pursuit to become a boxer.

Ferdinand, who retired from football in May 2015, wants to gain a boxing licence and compete for a title belt at the age of 38. He will be training with former WBC super-middleweight champ and Baggies fan Woodhall, aged 49.

Woodhall believes Ferdinand has the potential to box at a professional level and praised the former defender's fitness and enthusiasm.

"In all honesty, I think Rio can definitely box as a professional given time. He has natural power in his right hand, is extremely fit and is very enthusiastic to learn," said Woodhall.

"Style wise, he's very raw and I'll have to develop this which will take time but he has all the natural ingredients."

Woodhall has a wealth of boxing experience to offer Ferdinand. He competed as a professional boxer for a decade between 1990 in 2000.

Former Saddlers star links up with hospice

A FORMER Walsall player has teamed up with a hospice to give people the chance to stay connected with younger generations of their family after they die. James Chambers, who also played for West Bromwich Albion, has partnered up with Mary Stevens Hospice for the initiative.

His company MyFarewell will be launched in November, providing a video service allowing people to record messages and stories for their family. Mr Chambers said: "This is something I've been passionate about doing for nearly a decade. However losing dad a few years ago really did hammer home how important it was for me to provide this service for families, so the same season I finished playing and started working on MyFarewell."

Dan Malin, digital media specialist at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "One of the most important things that we offer our patients is the opportunity for them to create a memory box for their families, which they fill with photos, objects, stories and treasured personal items which mean so much to them, and to their loved ones."

EFL clubs in favour of closing window early

EFL clubs have indicated they are in favour of an early closure to the summer transfer window from next season.

The decision was taken following a summit of all 72 clubs last Thursday, and will be subject to further discussions before it is put to a formal vote in February.

The EFL is set to follow the Premier League after its clubs agreed to close the window the day before the start of the 2018-19 season earlier this month. The EFL's proposal however, would continue to allow the signing of players on loan until August 31.

The indication by the EFL teams to introduce a shorter window for player transfers follows debate about the uncertainty caused to managers and players with activity still ongoing once the season has started.

EFL chief executive Shaun Harvey said: "We will now go away and look to develop a set of proposals before moving this matter on to the next stage, which would be a formal vote in order to change our regulations."

Speedway star Ivan's bikes up for grabs

SPORTING FEATURE

By David Banner

A winner of more than 1,000 international events in 26 countries across the world, he is legendary throughout the motorcycling world

Meanwhile, The Carole Nash Classic Mechanics Show also takes place over the weekend of October 14-15.

The Classic Mechanics Show features flying Kiwi Aaron Slight – probably the best rider never to win the World Superbike title – taking centre stage.

Stunning

Exhibition manager Nick Mowbray said: "We are so excited to have Aaron Slight at this year's Carole Nash Classic Mechanics Show."

With more than a decade racing in the World Superbike series, the New Zealander will have plenty of great races to draw from."

On site will be nearly 1,000 trade and autojumble stalls, stunning club stands and private entries – the perfect place for any classic motorcycle fan to pick up that elusive part and meet thousands of other like-minded individuals.

Voted

A winner of more than 1,000 international events in 26 countries across the world, he is legendary throughout the motorcycling world.

He is the holder of six world records, including most individual championship wins and most individual world speedway wins.

Simply put, he is the most successful and decorated solo performer that the sport has ever known and was acknowledged as such when he was voted Man of the Millennium by speedway followers.

Bonhams Motorcycle Department is to offer Mauger's collection, which comprises more than 50 lots, including championship speedway and longtrack racing motorcycles, trophies, awards and ephemera.

Sport

SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

Rampant Stour seize second spot

Warrington Town 1 Stourbridge 5
RAMPANT Stourbridge put Warrington to the sword with a victory that seized second spot in the Evo-Stik Premier standings.

The Glassboys led after 15 minutes when Stuart Pierpoint marked his return by crashing home a Tom Tonks free-kick at the far post. Stour doubled two minutes later from another Tonks set piece as a scramble ensued from a corner and Jordan Archer pounced.

The visitors should have made it three in five minutes but Archer could not divert a near-post cross from recent recruit from Huddersfield Devarn Green.

Warrington had their first sniff of goal when Rory McKeown drilled over from the edge of the box and the same player then teed up Josh Hine to whack a shot harmlessly over the crossbar.

Stour's Leon Broadhurst could only find the wall with a 25-yard free-kick 10 minutes before half-time but a mysterious penalty gave the home side a lifeline which Sean Williams gleefully took three minutes after the restart.

The Glassboys hit straight back as Archer latched on to a perfectly-weighted ball with the striker needing no second invitation to double his tally.

The game was up less than three minutes later as Broadhurst converted a deep free-kick and, after Aaron Forde was thwarted by keeper Tony McMillan, Paul McCone soon made it five from Forde's corner on 63 minutes.

Stourbridge 0 Lancaster City 0

Stourbridge allowed maximum points to slip from their grasp in a goalless stalemate with Lancaster. The Glassboys had enough chances to clinch three Evo-Stik Premier points during a first half when the City defence was at full stretch.

But, as the game progressed, Stourbridge looked increasingly unlikely to break the deadlock against an often packed but well-drilled City defence.

During the early stages City's goal led a charmed life as Stour created a number of openings. Broadhurst blazed over as City struggled to clear from a corner on 13 minutes and hit the post on 22 minutes before the ball was scrambled away for a corner. From the resulting cross, City goalkeeper Josh Powell managed to block a goal-bound effort from central defender Jack Duggan.

Stourbridge continued to press and, two minutes later, Powell pushed another effort from the advancing Duggan round the post. From the following corner, the unlucky Duggan was denied again when City defender Ryan Winder cleared off the line.

Stourbridge could find no way through in the second half despite introduction of new signing Green, who looked lively. But it was City who could have snatched the points. Glassboys goalkeeper Matt Gould saved at Craig Carney's feet on 81 minutes before a scare in stoppage time when a shot from Scott Harries beat the keeper but struck Ollie Wood and cannoned back into Gould's grateful arms.

Back-to-back triumphs for racers



Martyn Siviter, left, and Pete Wright

ENDURANCE stars Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter claimed back-to-back titles in just their second year of racing after wrapping up the championship at Snetterton.

The Black Country-based Double Two Racing – which also saw racers Scott Stevens and Harry Blades step in for the team – rode to the Club 600 title, having dominated the newcomer class last year. Wright, from Tividale, and Siviter, from Blackheath, will now move up the premier class after winning their latest crown with a round to spare. Wright said: "A massive thank you to our

third team member and unsung hero who is our head of pit crew, a wonder woman that holds the team together, my wife, Aly.

"Also a shout out to all of team Track Prep who have been great rivals on track but great friends off."

Victory had been on the cards before the flag dropped as the Double Two Racing team arrived at Snetterton on the back of three race wins and four second places. It meant Wright and Siviter, who had led the championship since round two, just needed a third place finish to wrap up the championship.

YELTZ BACK AT THE BOTTOM

Stalybridge Celtic 1 Halesowen Town 0
THE battle of the bottom two clubs in the Evo-Stik League Premier Division was decided by a first-half goal, which sent Yeltz back to the basement.

Liam Dickinson opened the scoring for Stalybridge on nine minutes when he beat the offside trap.

Yeltz goalkeeper Daniel Platt made a number of good saves to keep the score down to one at half-time.

Luke Shearer had a good chance for Halesowen in the second half but saw his shot saved. Two minutes from time, he set up Daniel Udoh in front of goal, but that chance was missed.

The result dropped Halesowen to the bottom, one point behind Stalybridge.

Halesowen Town 1 Warrington Town 1

Substitute James Spray rescued a point for Halesowen with an 88th-minute strike in a scrappy Evo-Stik Premier contest against high-flying Warrington at The Grove.

The Yeltz suffered an early blow when central defender Dominic Smith limped off after just six minutes. The Yellows then took the lead in the 17th minute when Caleb Richards beat Platt at his near post with a deflected shot.

Visiting keeper Anthony McMillan raced off his line to block Shearer's 22nd-minute effort and Lee Chilton blasted a free-kick straight at McMillan six minutes later.

Home substitute Roland Agbor cut in from the left in the 55th minute but fired over the bar.

Udoh rolled a great chance wide of goal after the Warrington defence opened up following good work from Roland Agbor in the 67th minute. Platt prevented Warrington from increasing their lead when he beat away a fierce shot from substitute Joe Mwasile after 75 minutes.

But the Yeltz finally equalised with two minutes remaining when the Warrington defence failed to clear captain Asa Charlton's left-wing cross, allowing Spray to smash home.



Spray that again – super-sub James Spray celebrates his late equaliser to hold Warrington at the Grove

Speedway king Karlsson officially retires

PETER Karlsson, one of Wolverhampton's all-time great riders, has officially brought the curtain down on his glittering speedway career.

Karlsson had a successful farewell meeting at Monmore in March but continued racing in Sweden, his home country. Now he's decided to retire

after almost 30 years as a professional rider and a host of international and domestic honours.

Wolves owner Chris Van Straaten said: "Peter is a special character and will always be a legend at Wolverhampton.

"I would like to see him remain involved in the sport in

some way and there is no doubt in my mind if he was based in the UK we would find some way to make use of his talents."

Meanwhile, Cradley Heathens were last night (Wednesday) due to take on Eastbourne at Perry Barr in their rearranged last league meeting of the season.

Ball hopes to build on his debut

DANNY Ball is looking to build on his debut knockout victory with another thrilling performance on BCB Promotions' 'You Asked For It' show at Walsall Town Hall later this month.

The 21-year-old made light work of Martin Kabrhel in July stopping the Czech fighter in the opening round.

The Kingswinford boxer was delighted with his professional debut and is looking forward to his second punch-for-pay contest, against MJ Hall, on Saturday.

Hall is something of an unknown quantity, having fought just once to date but not to Ball. The pair have enjoyed the odd sparring session over at Wednesbury Boxing Academy and Ball is looking forward to renewing acquaintances.

"I sparred Matt (Matt James Hall) leading up to my debut," Ball told bcb-promotions.com. "He's a nice lad. He's southpaw, so it's something a little different. He's from my neck of the woods too, so that adds another dimension to the fight."

Topping 'You Asked For It', sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall, is the Midlands Area Middleweight Title clash between undefeated Tom Stokes (West Bromwich) and Tyler Denny (Rowley Regis). Bloxwich super bantamweight, James Beech Junior, Wolverhampton's super flyweight, Kyle Williams, Ledbury super lightweight, Alex 'Pinky' Florence, and Stoke light heavyweight, Luke Caci, are also in action. Wolverhampton welterweight, Lauren Johnson, completes the card.

Wolves duo's world title hopes fade

FREDDIE Lindgren and Tai Woffinden saw their world title bids take a hit as red-hot Slovenian star Matej Zagar won his second straight FIM Speedway Grand Prix in Stockholm on Saturday.

Wolves captain Lindgren scored nine points to leave him fourth in the standings with 107, 25 points behind champion leader Jason Doyle.

And things were even worse for Wolves asset Woffinden, whose six-point haul put him sixth in the table – seven points back from Lindgren.

But it was Zagar who was the star of the Swedish meeting, winning the event and surging up to eighth in the series.

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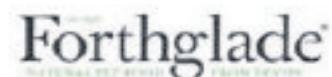
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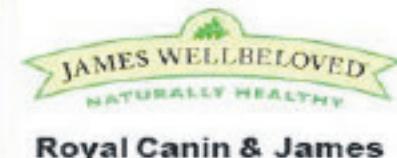
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Birmingham Dogs Home was founded in 1892 on land made available by the late Sir Alfred Gooch Bart in New Canal Street, Birmingham. Sadly this building, which over a century later still had 'Birmingham Home for Lost and Starving Dogs' proudly displayed above its doors, was destroyed in a fire during 2014 but from the foundations established at this humble building, the charity continues to exist and grow.

Almost 100 years after the charities founding - in 1987 - the Duchess of York officially opened the new Bartholomew Street home, which had been purpose-built to provide shelter and protection for over 150 abandoned dogs in comfortable kennel blocks with adjacent facilities, such as its own vets' clinic, puppy unit and isolation block.

The home is a charity which can only survive through the generosity and support of the general public and benefactors from the local community. Without this we would be unable to carry on the vital work of rescuing and rehoming abandoned dogs.

The tremendous help given over the years has allowed us to improve and extend our facilities and, therefore, our ability to care for these unfortunate former pets.

While the Birmingham site houses our head office, our second site - Sunnyside - in Coven, Wolverhampton, is a showpiece 21st century home built at the cost of £2m and opened in September 2002.

Sunnyside houses 100 strays in state-of-the-art accommodation complete with veterinary consulting room and isolation unit for dogs requiring special, one-to-one care and treatment.

Our New Home

The kennels, which we believe are one of the best purpose-built homes in the UK, are surrounded by green fields and towering trees which allow for excellent exercise facilities and the opportunity for potential owners to walk and get to know their dog of choice better.

In recent years the charity recognised that the facilities offered by our rehoming centre in Dibbeth were falling behind the expected standard of a modern animal welfare establishment. With very little room to expand the existing home the Trustees decided to find a new location for the centre on the South side of Birmingham, a site that can enhance the service provided by the charity now and for years to come.

After looking at 65 potential sites the Trustees agreed to purchase

a 12.45 acre site situated on Catherine de Barnes Lane, Solihull. The site is in the Green Belt, so a very detailed environmentally considerate design had to be put together if the charity had any hope of gaining the necessary planning approval from Solihull Council. Such a scheme was compiled and on the 10th July 2013 planning approval was granted for the construction of a £5.5M Animal Welfare Centre.

On the 22nd September 2014 work began on site with the new home opening on the 23rd October 2015. The Centre comprises of 128 large kennels with under floor heating, veterinary suite, education / community centre and superb staff facilities. The 12.45 acre site gives plenty of room, for volunteers and supporters looking to find their new companion, to walk dogs in open countryside.

Birmingham Dogs Home recognises that none of this would have been possible without the loyal long standing support of the people of Birmingham, Solihull and the West Midlands.

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Client Hills Veterinary Group

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As owners, we might think our pet is simply 'acting out' or trying to get attention, however, the problem could run much deeper and that's where veterinary behavioural medicine can help. Joao Teotonio, veterinary surgeon, spent 3 months in Australia learning Behavioural Medicine with Dr Kersti Seksels - one of the world's top specialists in the subject. He then moved back to Portugal to write his Master's thesis on fear-related disorders in dogs and his interest for behaviour never stopped growing. JT now runs veterinary behavioural appointments for Client Hills Vets.

Client Hills Vets are putting on a FREE event for pet owners where they can come and meet Joao and learn more about dog behaviour, and ask questions about their own pet. The vent will take place at 7pm on Monday 23rd October at Client Hills Vets' Bromsgrove practice, 5 Kidderminster Road, B61 7JJ. Booking early is advised, call 01527 889810 or visiting clienthillsvets.co.uk to book your places.

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